作者からのメッセージ

4巻の表紙は「はるか」です。「はるか」なんですけどね。描いてみたら、あまりに地味顔で、どうしよう‥！　こんな地味顔の表紙じゃ誰も手に取ってくれない‥!!と思って、若干目を大きく美化して描いてしまいました。軽い詐欺ですね。すみません、ごめんなさい‥。きっと矢内先輩の目に映る「はるか」はこんな感じだったと思います。(無理矢理。)

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9784091332660
C9979 ¥400E
1929979004002
定価：本体400円＋税
雑誌 46042-66　小学館

パズルのピースがパタパタとはまってく音がする
ずっと知りたくて たまらなかった
成海の「中心」に触れる——

心理学者の母親に人格をコントロールされて育ったという、成海の暗い過去を知って以来、彼から遠ざかり続けた水帆。けれど、今度こそ成海と向かい合おうと決心した矢先、折口はるかに関する新情報が飛び込んでくる。そして、成海家の家政婦・七尾から明かされる衝撃の事実。その時「はるかの元彼」の姿がついに水帆の前に浮かび上がる！
しかし、成海は姿を消してしまい‥!?

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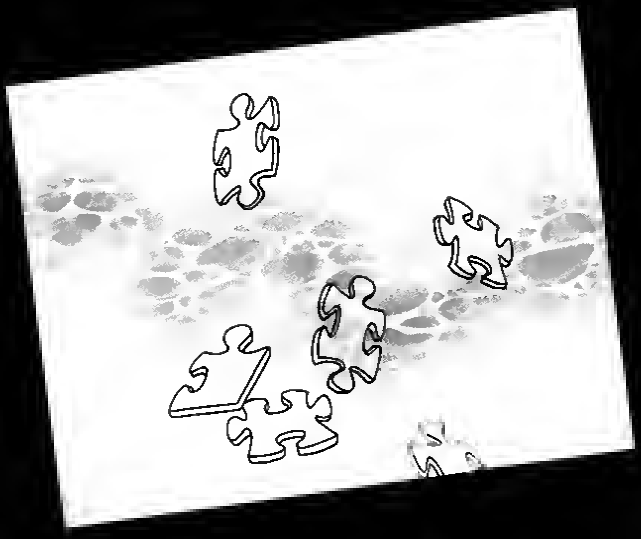
[Volume.4]

＊ヘツコミフラワーコミックス＊



Piece [Volume.4]

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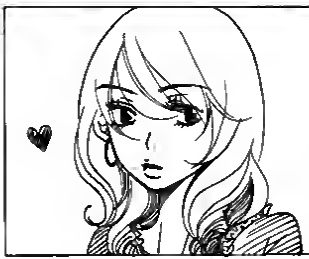
Story8

I like potato chips without salt.

I like chicken curry.



Mizuho's college friend Part ②

I didn't give her a name. She looks like a tiger print clothes person. My editor looks good in tiger print clothes. I can always see her breasts. I should touch them.

FUJOSHI DEN
FDSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Ugh!
I TOLD YOU TO PICK SOME UP!
DID YOU FORGET?
YOU'RE USELESS!!
Nemoto-san wouldn't have forgotten!
WE'RE OUT OF MILK PICK SOME UP
WE'RE OUT OF TOILET PAPER TOO, AREN'T WE?
Your new boyfriend is Amazing
ARE... YOU GOING TO BUY... A PORN MAGAZINE ..?
EEK!
OF COURSE NOT!!!
CLICK
...
RENT A MOVIE WHEN YOU COME OVER! ♡
AND A CUP NOODLE, POTATO CHIPS, CURRY AND A PORN MAGAZINE

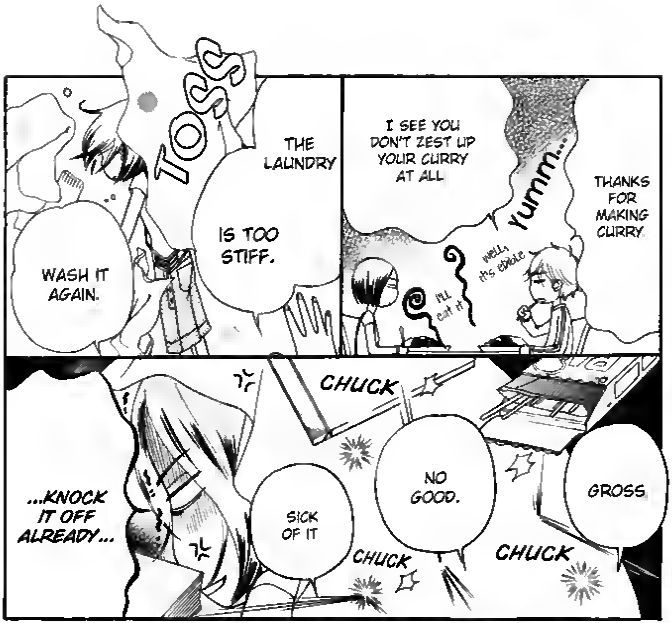
IT COULD BE
SUGA-SAN IS AT HER WITS END.
You never know
I'm not depressed and he's not my "boyfriend".
I don't intend on being deceived either.
UWAH... THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
I'm taking off.
STAGGER
SHE WAS DEPRESSED WHEN SUMIYOSHI DUMPED HER AND NOW I HEAR SHE'S HOOKED UP WITH A ROTTEN GUY...!
That surprised me!
AH! SORRY I YELLED...! I'VE BEEN A BIT CRANKY LATELY...
I'm sorry...!
Are you okay?
AH! SUGA-CHAN.
Welcome home
...HOW DO YOU...
TRASH A ROOM SO BAD IN A FEW DAYS...?
DOOM
I even think I'm being foolish.

Forbid Gal DEN
FGSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM

HEY, HEY, WHERE'S THE PORN MAGAZINES?
LOOK AT ALL THE BUGS!!
Don't let them out first!!
buzzz
buzzz
buzzz
You slept there for a few days, haven't you?
GRRR
AT LEAST THROW THE TRASH OUT LIKE I TOLD YOU!!
PORN MAGAZINES!!
.....
I want to cry.

After three years
I ran into the former high school classmate, Narumi Hikaru.
Her mother asked me to find her daughter's former boyfriend from high school.
Oriyuchi Haruka-san, a classmate, died when I was in high school
"HARUKA [illegible] WITH THE MAN'S CHILD."
"YOU MEAN, SHE HAD AN ABORTION?"

I'm no longer afraid.
I simply cherish this man before me.
I was attracted to him three years ago.
He just toyed with me.
I couldn't leave him.
I was different then.
Day after day Narumi got worse.
"YOU CAME AGAIN?"
I thought "We should be a couple."
Potato Chips Sonde
AHH! WHAT'S THIS? IT'S SEASONED !!
I DON'T EAT SEAWEED AND SALT CHIPS!!
Take this back!


TOSS
THE LAUNDRY
IS TOO STIFF.
WASH IT AGAIN.
I SEE YOU DON'T ZEST UP YOUR CURRY AT ALL
Yumm...
THANKS FOR MAKING CURRY
WELL, IT'S EDIBLE
I'LL EAT IT
CHUCK
NO GOOD.
GROSS
SICK OF IT
...KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY...
CHUCK
CHUCK

EH...?
WHAT ARE YOU TO ME?
SNAP
I'M NOT YOUR MAID!!
THEN WHAT ARE YOU?

HUG
I
LOVE YOU, SUGA-CHAN.
You're super handy
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD.
PRIDE
I
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
feel like I'm lacking something important as a person.
come back again!
CRUMBLE

SO
I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH NARUMI.
Listen to me!
It's fucking me off!
HE'S TOTALLY MESSED IN THE HEAD.
YEAH...
THAT'S TRUE...
Maybe I'm his servant?
I'M FINE I'VE BECOME USED TO IT.
Eheh
YOU'RE AMAZING, SUGA-CHAN...! NORMAL PEOPLE COULDN'T DO IT...!
I feel the Love!!
YOU ARE LIKE MOTHER THERESA ...!!
Apologize to Theresa!
NO! SHE'S NOT AMAZING! IT'S NOT RIGHT!!
EVEN SINCERITY CAN'T REACH SOME PEOPLE!
HE HAS NO COMPASSION!!

DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT!
I BEG YOU!
WOW...!! YANAI-SENPAI, I CAN FEEL YOUR LOVE FOR SUGA-SAN!!
Huh?!
HE LOVES ME...?!
Sorry! Sensei, you're a "good friend"!
DON'T MOCK ME...!
GYAAH!
Damn it
I understand
Yanai-senpai's frustration.
I doubt
Narumi was Onuma-san's former boyfriend?
School Playboy
Fliet
Fliet
Fliet
Onuma-san is innocent and pure in Yanai-senpai's mind.
Was she really with Narumi when she was alive?
I don't want to accept it.
sparkle sparkle
sparkle
Lily girl
So Dazzling...!

BUT NARUMI ISN'T GENTLE OR KIND.
The picture is two different.
H.N
Former boyfriend
I DON'T EVEN THINK HE LIKES CONSTRUCTIVE WORK LIKE DRAWING.
• KIND
• GENTLE
• ALWAYS SMELLS LIKE ACRYLIC PAINT
I want to doubt Narumi's initials "HN" are the same as the boyfriend's.
I'M FINE
NARUMI ISN'T ORIGUCHI-SAN'S FORMER BOYFRIEND.
IF HE'S WORTHLESS AS YOU SAY, WHY DO YOU VISIT HIM SO MUCH...?
He is not a hopeful guy!
Never!!
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO EXPRESS ANYTHING!
We
ANYWAY
SHOW ME PROOF IT'S NARUMI...!
For both of us!
considered the graduate trainee once again.
THINK ABOUT IT!!
DON'T MEDDLE!! I'M TUNING YOU OUT!!
Face reality!!
I can't hear! I can't see!
BANG

H.N
There are four people with the initials HN.
I managed to track down a former art club member.
One by one I tried to get in touch with them.
Nakajima Haruki
Nemoto Hiroshi
Nomura Hide
Nagai Hiranori
I DON'T KNOW I NEVER TALKED WITH HER
SORRY I CAN'T HELP YOU
Name remembers? Origuchi-san even existed.
I HAVE NO IDEA
LMM WHO?
ORIGUCHI ?
SHE WAS THE SUPER PRETTY GIRL WITH BROWN HAIR!
OHH, THAT WAS HER NAME?
WE WERE IN DIFFERENT GRADES.
HUH? AM I WRONG?
THE NUMBER YOU DIALED
DOES NOT EXIST
• Art club
2nd year class
Matsumura
X Art

The information stopped here.
We hit a dead end.
WHAT A TOTAL BUST.
ORIGUCHI'S MOTHER
ORIGUCHI
gloom
I SEE ...
YOU HIT A DEAD END...
I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T HELP
BUT DID YOU VISIT ALL THE STUDENTS YET?
YES, WELL...
ONCE MORE PLEASE !!
OR STOP BY THE LIBRARY...
THERE WAS A GIRL THERE WHO SAW HARUKA WITH A "BOY".
BETTER YET, WHAT IF YOU ASKED THE PEOPLE AT THE BOOKSHOP SHE WORKED AT?
LET IT GO

HONEY...!
YOU'RE JUST FORCING OTHERS TO SHARE YOUR PAIN!
HARUKA IS DEAD ALREADY.
SHE DIDN'T TELL ANYONE HER SECRET.
WE WEREN'T GOOD PARENTS.
AT THIS POINT
WHATEVER WE FIND OUT WON'T CHANGE THE FACTS.
YOU MUSTN'T INVOLVE MIZUHO-SAN.
I'M SORRY... WE IMPOSED THIS UPON YOU
I... WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK IT "UPON" MYSELF..!

THANK YOU.
IT WAS NICE OF YOU.
CONTINUE? OR STOP?
YEAH...
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
.....
COOP Cafe

EH?! YOU HIT A DEAD END FINDING ORIGUCHI-SAN'S FORMER BOYFRIEND?!
NO ONE WANTS THEIR SECRETS TO BE FOUND!
IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE IT A SECRET.
THE STORY IS DONE.
NOTHING WILL CHANGE IF YOU DISCOVER IT.
YEAH, I GUESS ...
HMMM. BUT I'M GLAD FOR THAT.
APART FROM THAT, IT'S NOT RIGHT!
LIFE SHOULD BE AGGRESSIVE AND POSITIVE!!
Yes.
But
It had changed.
Little by little
"Origuchi-san" got everyone involved
The colors in my world changed a little.

Like a new born chick
once again
I've become friendly with people.
Eh?!
MAMI-CHAN CAN'T COME?! NOT GOOD!! WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH GIRLS NOW!!
GROUP DATE ...?
I'LL PUSH ONWARD, BUT THE GROUP DATE THE OTHER DAY WAS AWFUL.
beep
HELLO? YEAH SEVEN O'CLOCK SHIBUYA, RIGHT?
GASP
STARE
NO I DON'T DO
GRAB
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!!
ROOOAR
JUST
BE
AGGRESSIVE IN LIFE!!!
GO FOR IT!!!

FGSGANS.BLOGSPOT.COM

AHHH.
THERE WEREN'T ANY DECENT GUYS...!
How awful!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUY? YOU LOOKED FRIENDLY.
YEAH, NO GOOD HE'S A PLAYBOY!
I HATE
GUYS LIKE THAT!
SHE SEEMS ... TO BE GETTING WORSE
Rumi was always more chaste than others.
HE SAID HE WASN'T GOOD WITH WOMEN
WHILE HE WAS FREELY STROKING MY HAND...
LIAR!!
SURELY ...
THERE'S A NICE GUY OUT THERE FOR YOU.

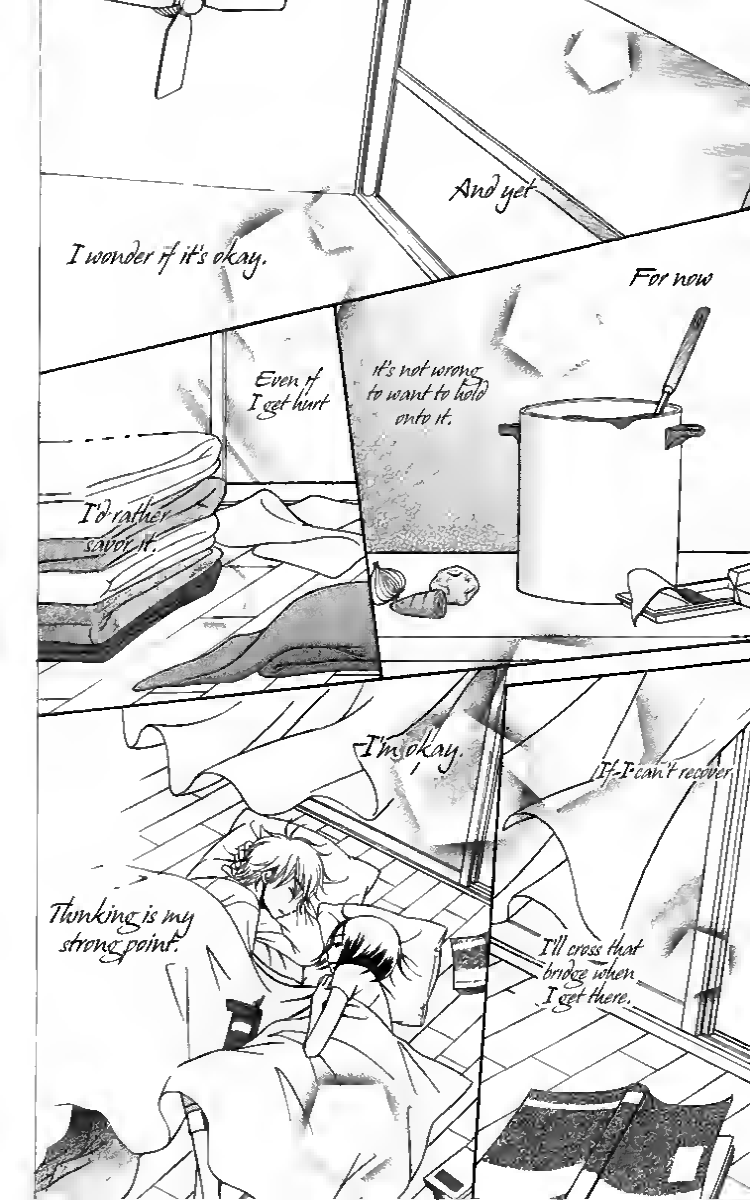
MIZUHO
YOU'VE CHANGED LATELY...
Haha...
LOOK, I'LL GO ON A DATE AGAIN TO EVEN THINGS OUT.
I don't like it though.
Let me know when there aren't enough girls
YOU'RE SO KIND IT'S WEIRD!
EH? HOW MEAN!
You can't love someone and not show interest in them
I feel like
I miss
lacking that kindness.
ring
NARUMI
menu

I feel
satisfied.
NARUMI
Re:
BUY ME A PEPSI.
-END-
menu
He just pushes me around
IT ISN'T STRANGE
BUT IT IS CONCERNING
NO WAY..! NARUMI-KUN?! YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM?!
YEAH
I KNOW
NARUMI IS NO GOOD..!
But I have "strong magnetism to him."
HONESTLY!
MOVE!! I CAN'T CLEAN!!

KYAH!
yank
urghhh!
Deep down
it's not like
he's trying
to get involved
with me.

Surely
I don't think he would accept me
or obsess over me.

this relationship
will end soon.


And yet
I wonder if it's okay.
For now
Even if I get hurt
it's not wrong to want to hold onto it.
I'd rather savor it.
I'm okay.
If I can't recover
Thinking is my strong point.
I'll cross that bridge when I get there.

snore
snore

NHK
.....
Snore
Voll

I
H.N
reopened the search for Origuchi-san's former boyfriend.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY STORY A FEW DAYS AGO
YES. ORIGUCHI HARUKA-SAN
· Art Club Year 2 Class 3 Matsura Yuki
· Art Club Egaw
THERE ARE TWO FORMER ART CLUB MEMBERS I CAN'T CONTACT
COULD I GET THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION?
YES! PLEASE!

WHY ARE YOU THANKING ME?
HELLO? YANAI-SENPAI?
ring
YES! I SAW THE TEXT!!
You're right
THANK YOU!!
I'M DOING IT FOR ORIGUCHI.
YANAI TAKASHI
UNTITLED
I WENT BACK TO THE LIBRARY WE WERE TOLD ORIGUCHI-SAN USED TO VISIT
-END-
menu

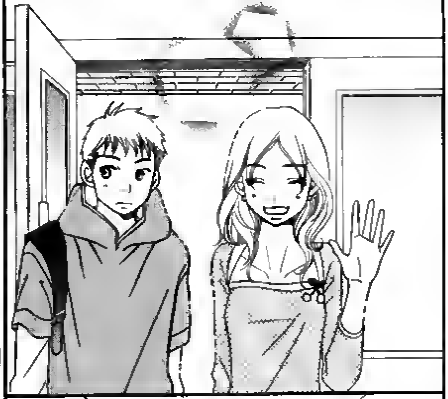
Former Art Club member

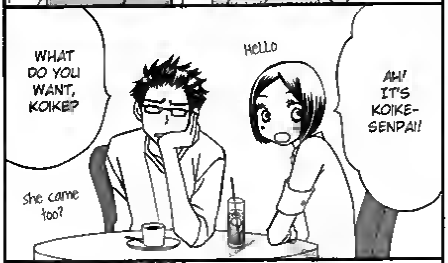
Matsura-kun

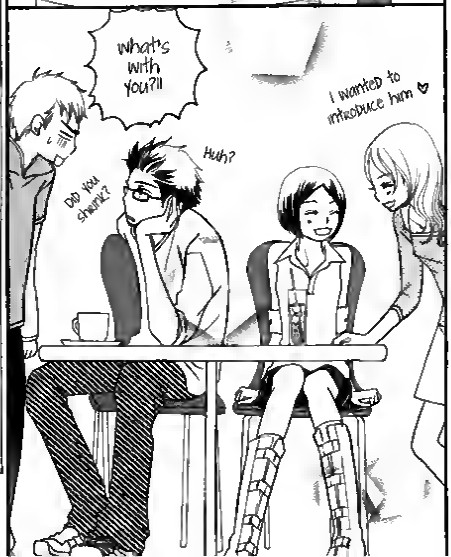
He has a cupid haircut ♡

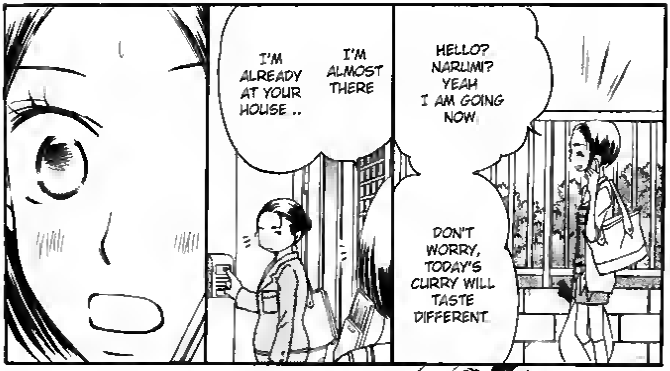
When I have spare time, I draw pedestrians on the street. It upset me slightly that some people came out really well and others were really bad...

I remember their "color" and "figure", but I get all, "Ahh! He looks like a cylinder!"








HELLO? NARUMI? YEAH I AM GOING NOW
DON'T WORRY, TODAY'S CURRY WILL TASTE DIFFERENT
I'M ALMOST THERE
I'M ALREADY AT YOUR HOUSE ..

NANAO-SAN ...?!
MIZUHO-CHAN ?!
UWAH! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!!
That's right, you stop by sometimes!
SQUEEZE

YOU CAME...!
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
HUH?
oh my!
THE HOUSE IS SO CLEAN.
It was full of trash last time I came!
GYAAH GYAAH
TODAY'S CURRY WILL BE GOOD.!!
CHUCKLE
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT, BUT IT'S AVERAGE.
You flo
It's not even good
SHE CAN ONLY MAKE CURRY.
YOU LOOK HEALTHY.
Eyeb
YEAH, YEAH. I'M ALIVE.
I ONLY EAT CURRY.
ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?

I
CAFE + CAFE
MIZUHO-CHAN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME
WELL, I'LL CHECK UP ON YOU LATER.
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
WOULD YOU HAVE TEA WITH ME?
glance
OHH SURE

NEED
TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MAN.
I'M INTERESTED
TO UNDERSTAND HIM
AND CONCERNED TOO.
I WANT TO BREAK DOWN
THE THICK WALLS AROUND HIM.

I'M MALICIOUS
I
RAISED SUCH AN UNBALANCED MAN.
HIS MOTHER..
ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE
SIXTEEN YEARS AGO.
MY ONLY DAUGHTER, WHOM I HAD DEVOTEDLY RAISED, HAD JUST RAN AWAY...
I WAS EXHAUSTED.
"I'M SICK OF YOU!!"
"I'M NOT YOUR PUPPET!!"
"I'LL DECIDE WHO I MARRY!!"

My daughter was everything to me.
"CHIKA!!"
AM
SL
My heart was broken.
Every day I asked myself "What did I do wrong?"
I was a strict single parent.
I had no one to ask advice.
Then my co-worker..
"...I CAN'T SLEEP LATELY. I WONDER IF IT'S STRESS."
HOUSEKEEPER AGENCY

"YOU PAY THEM"
"TO GET EVERYTHING BOTHERING YOU OFF YOUR CHEST."
"MAYBE YOU SHOULD SEE A PSYCHOLOGIST?"
"I HEAR WHEN YOU TALK TO THEM, YOU FEEL SO MUCH BETTER."
I don't care who.
I just wanted them to listen to me.
"NANAO KIMIKO-SAN."
Please come in
NARUMI CLINIC
PSYCHOLOGY / COUNSELING

"Just one time."
I could spit out my shameful self without further troubles.
I don't intend to come here again."
SHUT
At first
I didn't trust her much.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

There's no way such a young doctor would understand my feelings.
Up until now, my life hasn't been easy.
I WANTED HER TO HAVE EVERYTHING
...I...REALLY WANTED TO BE A TEACHER.
I NEVER WANTED HER TO BE MISERABLE
BUT MY PARENTS WOULDN'T SEND ME TO COLLEGE...
I DIDN'T WANT MY CHILD TO HAVE HARDSHIPS
I HAD HER TUTORED IN PIANO
I SENT HER TO A PRESTIGIOUS WOMEN'S COLLEGE
FOR HER TO AVOID HARDSHIPS
I WORKED TIRELESSLY AND DIDN'T WEAR MAKEUP.
FOR MYSELF ...
AND YET SHE SAYS
SHE'S GOING TO MARRY A DIVORCED UNATTRACTIVE MAN TWENTY YEARS HER SENIOR
"Surely I was a good mother."
THERE ARE MORE SUITABLE MEN...!
I RAISED A BETTER CHILD THAN THAT.
I'M... DREADFULLY SAD...
"Surely I wasn't wrong."

"LEAVE ME ALONE!!"
"I DON'T WANT TO LIVE LIKE YOU!!"
I PUSHED HER TOO MUCH.
I FEEL...
LIKE IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING...
"ENOUGH ALREADY!!"
When I let it all out
it was like being in a tragedy.
My emotions overwhelmed me
and I felt better.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.
I want
I can't want to cry anymore.
"to rely on someone."

YOU TRIED A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING
AND NO ONE NOTICED.
IT WAS HARD, WASN'T IT?
YOU TOOK TOO MUCH ON BY YOURSELF.
She said
exactly what I wanted to say.
Again and again
she dispensed
it like water.

It made it all better.
LET'S START BY BEING KIND TO YOURSELF.
IT'S OKAY.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.
YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
TRY RELAXING.
She pardoned everything.
YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME.

SHE PARDONED ME
AND SAVED ME MANY TIMES.
I SHARED ALL MY FEELINGS AND COMPLAINTS WITH HER.
AFTER THAT... WHEN TIMES GOT HARD
I VISITED HER.
I COULDN'T MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT HER...
I TOLD HER ABOUT THE PETTY THINGS IN MY LIFE
LATER
I WAS MORE AFRAID OF FAILING HER.
NANNY...?
YES.
"I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU."

MY SON IS TURNING THREE
I'M LOOKING FOR A LIVE-IN NANNY TO HELP ME WITH HIM...
I'M ALSO A SINGLE MOTHER.
I'm shorthanded
IS THAT SO...?
BUT
YOU SHOULD GO THROUGH MY AGENCY...
...AND I HAVE A HOUSEKEEPING JOB RIGHT NOW, SO I COULDN'T LIVE THERE...
I'LL DOUBLE YOUR PAY
I WANT TO ASK SOMEONE I CAN TRUST
grip
AS MY
FRIEND
PLEASE
"I SHOULD HELP HER."
I'll lose my guide otherwise.
...I UNDERSTAND.
I quit my job
and entered the Nanami household.

NARUMI
HIKARU!
HUGE HOUSE
He was sweet
and a very, very cute boy.
HELLO, HIKARU-KUN.
LET'S BE FRIENDS

FLINCH

WHAT'S WITH THE CAMERAS?!
ARE YOU... MONITORING THE HOUSE... DAY AND NIGHT?!
For Hikaru-kun?
Or me?
I WANT HIM IN MY SIGHTS AT ALL TIMES.
THAT CHILD IS A PRIZED POSSESSION OF MINE.
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING CONCERNING HIM.
YOU'RE HARDLY EVER HOME...!
THEN... BE AROUND HIM A LITTLE MORE!
YOU AREN'T CHERISHING HIKARU-KUN MUCH...
I MEAN. BUT...

and I hugged her.
I was strict with my daughter too.
But
HIKARU IS A GOOD AND SMART KID.
I was with her when I had time
THE EDUCATION SCHEDULE YOU INSTRUCTED
IT'S TOO MUCH TOO METHODICAL
07:30 Breakfast
12:00 Lunch
18:00 Dinner
20:30 Bedtime
13:00
THIS IS SMOTHERING THE CHILD
CHILDREN NEED A MORE LAX ENVIRONMENT
AND CONTACT WITH THEIR MOTHERS.
BUT ...!
IT WORKED FOR ME.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM
THEN
WAS YOUR PARENTING BETTER?

"I'M SICK OF YOU!!"
"I'M NOT YOUR PUPPET!!"
"LEAVE ME ALONE!!"
DON'T YOU WANT TO CORRECT YOUR PARENTING?
HUH?
CORRECT IT WITH AN INTELLIGENT AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP.
YOU COULD RAISE A PERFECT CHILD.
DID YOU MESS UP
YOUR PARENTING? DON'T YOU WANT TO FIX IT?

YOU PUSHED ALL OF IT.
DON'T INTERPOSE YOUR EMOTIONS.
DON'T PEDDLE THAT LOVE STUFF ON ME
DON'T DO IT TO HIKARU EITHER.
YOU SHOULD GET OVER IT.
Wake up
30 Breakfa
2:00 Lunch
18:00 Dinne
20:30 Bedti

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
YOUNG MASTER
DINNER TIME.
boiled (100g)
Ginger rice
Milk (200ml)
Apple (2 halves / 1 whole)

Some time later
I realized something
boiled (100g)
Ginger rice
Milk (200ml)
Apple (2 halves/1 whole)
HIKARU-KUN'S FAVORITE FOODS
ARE DISAPPEARING FROM THE MENU.
NOT JUST FOOD TOO.
HIS YELLOW BLANKET AND TEDDY BEAR TOO
YOU'RE TAKING AWAY THINGS HE LIKES...
For what?
ARE YOU...
DELIBERATELY STRESSING HIM OUT?
WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENT IS THIS?!
I couldn't hold back my anger...

did I trust
this person?
Why
YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HIS EMOTIONS OR FEELINGS.
"THAT CHILD IS A PRECIOUS POSSESSION OF MINE."
"I WANT TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING CONCERNING HIM."
No.
YOU'RE ONLY...
INTERESTED IN HIKARU-KUN'S "REACTIONS."

I QUIT ...!
I WON'T WORK LIKE THIS ...!!
Toss
I'm so stupid.
"I WANT TO DEPEND ON SOMEONE."
"I'M LOSING MY GUIDE."
Now
I don't think I want to be an adult.
She took advantage of me.
THERE WILL ONLY BE A NEW HOUSEKEEPER
WILL YOU ABANDON HIKARU?

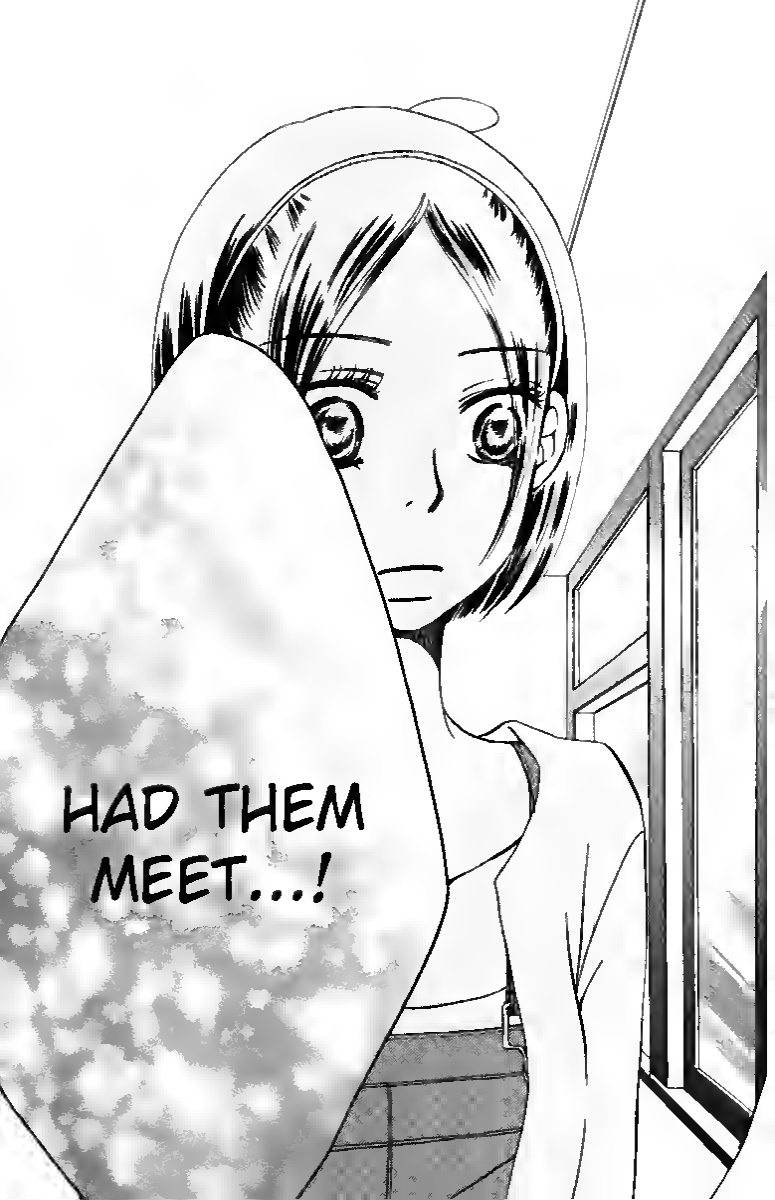
HIKARU-KUN
DO YOU LIKE ME?
HUG
I SEE.
thank you
THEN
I SHOULD NEVER TAKE THAT AWAY.
nod

I WILL BE WITH YOU
UNTIL YOU HATE ME.
I DIDN'T WANT TO RAISE HIM LIKE SHE WANTED ME TO AT ALL.
I TRIED TO SNEAK IN THE THINGS HE LIKED ..
I BELIEVED I WAS RIGHT.
I HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND TO HIM.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH
OF HIS ORIGINAL PERSONALITY IS LEFT OR HOW MUCH OF IT IS HIS MOTHER'S INFLUENCE OR MINE
AS OF RIGHT NOW...
BUT IN THE END
HE LACKED EMOTION.
HE WAS RAISED TO BE VERY BIASED...
SHE'S DOING WELL.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR DAUGHTER?
"WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS BORN I NOW KNOW HOW YOU FELT."
THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME...
THEN YOUR PARENTING WAS NEVER WRONG TO BEGIN WITH.

I GUESS SO.
I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT NARUMI HAD YOU.
IT'S TRUE.
THAT'S JUST MY OPINION.
I WANTED TO RAISE HIM TO BE A KIND BOY.
IT'S OKAY IF HE IS DISTORTED
AS LONG AS HE INTERACTS WITH OTHERS.

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE
SO...
BUT
SURELY I'VE
ONLY CONFUSED HIM MORE.


HAD THEM
MEET...!

THEM ...?
pi pi pi pi
YANAI TAKASHI
090871Oxxxx
menu
HELLO? SUGA?!
I GOT IN TOUCH WITH HIM!!
THE FORMER ART CLUB MEMBER WE COULDN'T GET A HOLD OF!!

NEW INFORMATION!!
HE SAYS HE SAW ORIGUCHI
MANY TIMES DURING WINTER VACATION IN THEIR SECOND YEAR!!

Next day
I ONLY SPOKE WITH HER ONCE.
ERMM, I MEAN ORIGUCHI-SAN.
Former art club member
Matsuura-kun (Class next door)
I WAS IN THE CLASS NEXT DOOR.
ART WAS AN OPTIONAL CLASS
SO WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER.
BADOOM

YOU SPREAD THE COLOR OUT!!
WOW!
Amazing!
Startle
IT LOOKS GOOD!
I REALLY, REALLY LIKE IT!!
?
?
2-1 origuch
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AH, ORIGUCHI-SAN?
IT'S LIKE I'M SEEING
THE WORLD THROUGH YOUR EYES!!
SUPER FUN!!

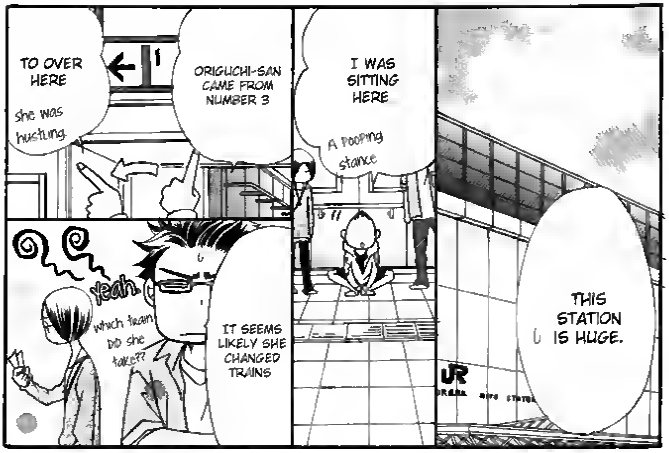
I
REMEMBER OTHER PEOPLE AS "COLORS"
MY MEMORY OF ORIGUCHI-SAN
Damn!
she ran away!
Ah!
dash
cheery
cheery
cheery
THE COLORS OF A LOVELY CHILD.
BRIGHT AND SUPER VIBRANT!
IS YELLOW, PINK AND GREEN
IS THAT IMAGE WRONG?
You see how like that?
I REMEMBER HER WELL
DURING WINTER BREAK
I SAW HER AT AN UNLIKELY PLACE.
I SAID, "AHH! IT'S THAT GIRL!"
I HAD GONE
TO MY GRANDMA'S IN IBARAKI FOR WINTER BREAK
I HAD TIME, SO I PICKED A NEARBY STATION
AND DREW FROM MORNING UNTIL NIGHT.
UNLIKELY PLACE ...?
I LIKE TO DRAW PEOPLE WALKING BY IN MY FREE TIME.

THEN...
I DIDN'T TALK TO HER THOUGH.
Last time she ran away!
CLATTER
Ahhh
IT'S ORIGUCHI!!
I SAW HER MANY TIMES AFTER THAT
AT THE SAME PLACE.
HERE
SHE WAS ALWAYS ALONE
flip
flip
flip
flip

FLIP
THERE WAS A DAY SHE HAD A LARGE CANVAS WITH HER TOO
I KNEW SHE COULD PAINT!
ISN'T THIS...
THE PAINTING SHE GOT FROM HER BOYFRIEND?!
DID SHE USE THIS STATION TO GO SEE HIM IN...
WHERE IS THIS STATION?!
MATSUI-KUN!!
IT'S MATSUURA
COULD YOU SHOW US RIGHT NOW?!
YOU'RE SAYING ORIGUCHI CONTACTED HER BOYFRIEND DURING WINTER BREAK THAT YEAR?!
H.N
IBARAKI ?!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT SOUNDS FUN. SURE THING.
Ehh?! Now?!
H.N

"DO YOU WANT TO GO OR NOT?"
"WHICH IS IT?"
"IBARAKI."
DO WE GO OR NOT?
WHICH IS IT?
NO...
IT'S NOTHING
CLENCH
?
You Don't Look good
WHAT IS IT?
...EH?
GO now?
DONG
HURRY UP!!
LET'S GO, SUGA!!
We can figure it out!!

460
460
720
720
720
8
7
KACLANG
KACLANG
KACLANG
... LET'S GO ...!


TO OVER HERE
she was hustling
ORIGUCHI-SAN CAME FROM NUMBER 3
I WAS SITTING HERE
A pooping stance
THIS STATION IS HUGE.
yeah
which team do she take??
IT SEEMS LIKELY SHE CHANGED TRAINS

EH...?
...PERHAPS
Ibaraki
#Shi
Nan
SUGA ...?!
THIS WAY
KUCLONS

THREE YEARS AGO DURING SUMMER BREAK
KOCLONG
WITH NARUMI
WE WENT ON A TRIP.
"DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE?"
"LET'S GO!!"
WE TRIED IN VAIN
hah
you're mean
TO CHANGE TRAINS ALONG THE WAY...
snore
KOCLONG
"YOU'RE FINE!"
HURRY UP!

Next is
OO station
OO station
WE GOT ON THIS TRAIN
"AH! I WANT TO GET OFF NEXT!"
WE GOT OFF AT THE STATION.
NARUMI?
WHY DID HE GET OFF HERE?
WHAT IS THAT
MEMO YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING ONTO?

Baraki
⇨Shinagawa/JR Lilly
⇨Ueno(JR early
⇨Mito(201⇨
Narumi
"THEY NEVER SHOULD HAVE MET...!"
"THEY"..?
NARUMI AND... WHO ELSE..?
IT'S NOT JUST HIKARU.
HE'S NOT ALONE...
THERE IS ANOTHER.

THEY LOOK REALLY SIMILAR
THEIR GENES ARE CLOSE TOO.
THEIR MOTHER WAS RAISING THEM IN SEPARATE HOUSES
FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER.
THEY WEREN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO CONTACT EACH OTHER.
THEY HAD THE SAME ENVIRONMENT
AND THE SAME STRESS... SOMETIMES GIVEN AT OPPOSITE TIMES.
I RAISED ONE OF THOSE BOYS.

THREE YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE ENTERING THE NARUMI HOUSEHOLD.
I FOUND A PHOTO IN THE MOTHER'S ROOM.
HIKARU-KUN...?
"OH MY, I MUST HAVE MIXED IN HERE BY MISTAKE."
NO.. HE LOOKS A LITTLE BIGGER THAN HIKARU..
"WHO IS IT?"
"HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIKARU..."

"I WAS CURIOUS"
"HOW ENVIRONMENTS"
"AFFECT PEOPLE."
"HE'S MY SON."
"MY OTHER SON."
"HUH?"
"HE'S A YEAR OLDER"
THAN HIKARU.

"RATHER THAN ONE, THERE ARE TWO."
"IT'S BETTER TO HAVE MANY SAMPLES."
NARUMI'S
OLDER BROTHER ...?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
SLIDE

I BELIEVED...
IT WOULD BE A POSITIVE EFFECT FOR THEM.
I HAD THE TWO OF THEM MEET BEHIND THEIR MOTHER'S BACK.
I GOT THE ADDRESS FROM THEIR MOTHER'S NOTEBOOK
KOCLONG
CHANGED TRAINS
AND I HELD HIKARU'S HAND
WHILE WE WENT TO SEE THAT OTHER BOY.

HE HAD A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSONALITY.
....
Hikaru 6
Hiro 7
TOUCH
HE WAS MATURE AND BULLIED BY OTHER KIDS.
HE WAS SO NICE...
Hikaru 6
Hiro 7
NARUMI HIRO.

ANYTHING HE COULDN'T PUT INTO WORDS
HE EXPRESSED IN HIS "PAINTINGS".
THUMP
"HE ALWAYS..."
"HE'S A KIND PERSON."
"SO VERY"
"VERY GENTLE."
"HERE! HARUKA-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND PAINTED THIS."
"SMELLED OF ACRYLIC AND OIL PAINTS."

"HE INITIALED IN THE CORNER, RIGHT."
"IT'S EXPLODING WITH EMOTION."
"HE HAS SO MUCH EMOTION PENT UP INSIDE HIM..."
H.N
"IT'S HIS INITIALS."

"HIRO...NARUMI."

THAT'S...
KACLANG
HUH?
NARUMI'S BROTHER ...?
What's that?
Next is OO Station OO station.
KACLANG
Ibaraki
Shinagawa(JR
Ueno(
Mito(
Narumi Hino
THE ADDRESS OF NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER.
Eh?!
YOU'RE GETTING OFF?!
SUGA!!
WAIT, SUGA!!
WAIT...!
"DO YOU KNOW THIS TOWN?"
"NOT REALLY."
He had actually been here.

"HUH? IT'S NARUMI-KUN!"
I'm sure he felt nostalgic getting off at this station.
He came to see his brother.
Narumi-san brought him as a child.
Suga!!
stop!
"YOUR ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED."
"I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU."
"YOU'VE BECOME A BIT ARROGANT."
I wonder if they mistook him for his brother.
"...YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON."
SUGA!!
I SAID WAIT!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
Explain it to me!!
I...
THINK I KNOW WHO ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND IS...!!

"A Narumi boy.
HIS HOUSE
IS IN THIS TOWN...!
IT'S NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER...!!
SUGA!!
I needed to find the missing piece.
I'll devote myself to understand it all.
If I can do that
I can destroy that dark world.

Even though he's a little warped
I thought the bright light of the future could get around it.
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
DONG
IT...
SMELLS WEIRD...
What did she put in...?
CURRY
BLACK RICE CURRY
CHILLY PEPPER
TOMATO PASTE
GINGER GARLIC
OYSTER SAUCE
SHE'S NOT VERY TALENTED...

Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
H.N
H.N
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble

I have
H.N
an unusual and trivial dream.
rustle
"SUGA-SAN IS COLD."
"WHY DOES SHE GO TO HIM?"
"GIRLS WHO ARE DRAWN IN BY HIM HAVE A PRINCESS COMPLEX."
Cold?
No.
I'm successful.
PANT

CRASH

SLAM
You can see the sea from that house on top of the hill.
PANT
PANT
PANT

PANT
IT'S THE SAME...
HOUSE AS NARUMI'S...!
I loved that house
and it's the same style.

"A KIND PERSON."
"I WANT YOU TO FIND"
"A VERY, VERY GENTLE PERSON."
"HE'S ALWAYS"
"THE GUY HARUKA DATED"
"WHEN SHE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL."
"HE SMELLS OF ACRYLIC AND OIL PAINTS."
I can hear
the puzzle pieces fitting together.
H.N
Hikaru.6
Hiro.7
H.N
"LOOK! HARUKA-CHAN'S "BOYFRIEND" PAINTED THIS."

"NARUMI'S OTHER HALF."
I...
THINK I KNOW WHO ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND IS...!!
Eh?!
HIRO (H) NARUMI (N)...
IS NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER ...!!

Story9
I've always
wanted to know more
about Narumi.

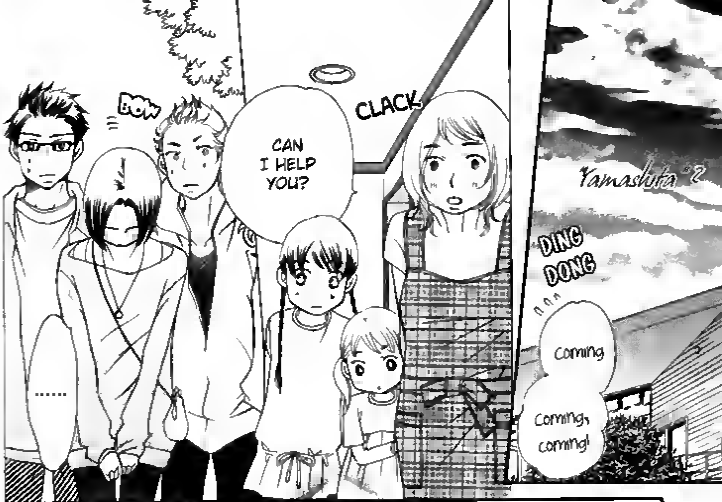
"SHE'S A DOCTOR IN PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE AT THE HOSPITAL."

"NARUMI'S... MOTHER?"

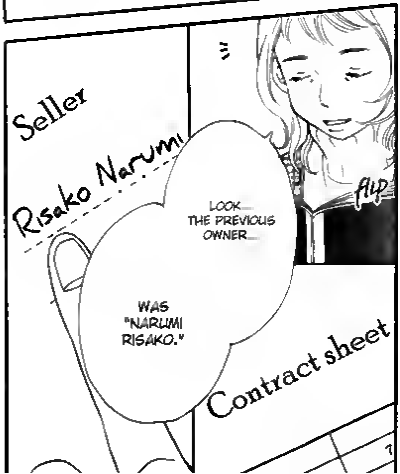
"THOSE BROTHERS WERE POLAR OPPOSITES."
"SOMETIMES"
"I SHUDDERED AT HOW SIMILAR THEY LOOKED."
"WITHOUT CONTACTING EACH OTHER."
"THEY WERE GIVEN THE SAME STRESSES AT OPPOSITE TIMES."
"HIGH STRUNG"
"AND UNREASONABLE AT TIMES."
Naruno's
"older brother" lives in this city.
SUGA!!

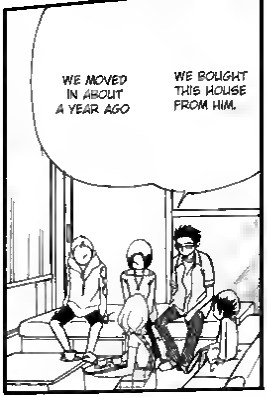
PANT
Onozuka-san's ex-boyfriend...?
is Narumi's other half
Is in this house.
SUGA!!
I SAID WAIT!!
GRAB

NARUMI'S
OLDER BROTHER IS IN THIS HOUSE...
Narumi's heart.
THE NAMEPLATE IS DIFFERENT.
YAMASHITA
EH...?
YAMASHITA
SHUGGLE
PANT
LIKE I SAID!
EXPLAIN IT TO ME!!
right now!
SHUGGLE
HE'S THE EX-BOYFRIEND AND THE OLDER BROTHER!!
YOU'RE LEAVING OUT STUFF!!
I can finally reach
...!
LIKE I SAID..!


BOW
CAN I HELP YOU?
CLACK
Yamashita 2
DING DONG
Coming
Coming, coming!
.....

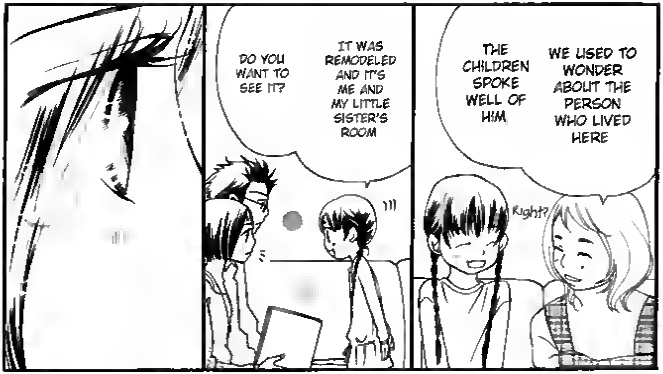
WAS THE PREVIOUS OWNER.
"NARUMI-SAN"


Seller
Risako Narumi
LOOK... THE PREVIOUS OWNER...
flip
WAS "NARUMI RISAKO."
Contract sheet


WE MOVED IN ABOUT A YEAR AGO
WE BOUGHT THIS HOUSE FROM HIM.

"RISAKO" IS NARUMI'S MOTHER?
WE BOUGHT THIS HOUSE THRU AN AGENCY
I NEVER MET HER THOUGH
THE SON LIVED HERE THE WHOLE TIME
BUT HE WANTED TO BUY SOMETHING AND LIVE ON HIS OWN
Live
on his own?
"MY MOTHER IS SUPPORTING ME UNTIL I'M TWENTY."
"SHE CAN SELL THIS HOUSE THEN TOO."
Narumi said
I promised to leave the house when I turn twenty this August."
It was the same for his brother.
He turned twenty a year ago.
Hikaru.6
Hiro.7
He was driven out of this house.
UMM...

WHO PAINTED, RIGHT?
WAS THE ONE
HE
DO YOU...HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THE PREVIOUS OWNER'S SON LIVES NOW?
HE HAD A LARGE STUDIO ON THE SECOND FLOOR
YES INDEED. BUT...
HE TOOK OUT TWO ROOMS TO MAKE IT LARGE.
THE SMELL OF
OIL PAINTS PERMEATES THE ROOM. .
...!

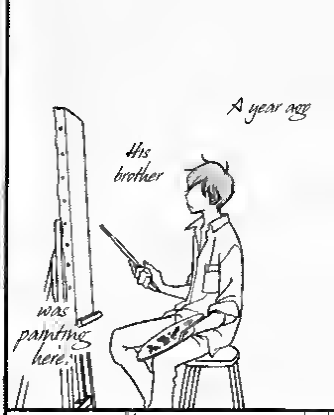

DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
IT WAS REMODELED AND IT'S ME AND MY LITTLE SISTER'S ROOM
THE CHILDREN SPOKE WELL OF HIM
WE USED TO WONDER ABOUT THE PERSON WHO LIVED HERE
Right?

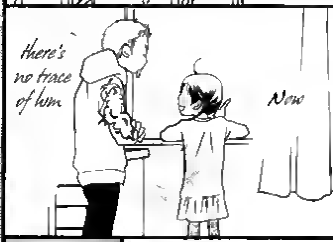
Huge house.
IT'S THIS WAY.
The exterior
are exactly
like Narumi's house.
living room, entryway
and the stairs
"BOTH HER SONS"
"WERE ONLY TEST SUBJECTS TO HER."

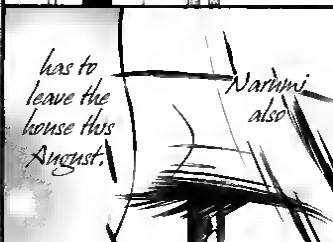
"created" them.
In this house
Risako Naru
that
mother
is like Naruru.
Even his "brother"
"WITHOUT SEEING EACH OTHER"
"SHE GAVE THEM THE SAME ENVIRONMENTS."
"SHE COMPLETELY"
"CONTROLLED"
"BOTH THEIR PERSONALITIES"
OHH!
THIS IS A NICE ROOM!!
HEY WHAT'S OVER HERE?
Eheh ♡

CLACK
THIS.
There is still
the faint smell
of paints.
hmmm
Amazing!
You guys are rich!
Ehehh
NICE! I WANT A BIG ART STUDIO TOO!!!
WOW! I CAN SEE THE OCEAN!!
WHOOT!

I wonder if
he'll disappear from me.


A year ago
His brother
was painting here.


there's no trace of him
Now


has to leave the house this August.
Narumi also

Piece④

trot trot trot
MIZUHO-SAN, I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING
OH THAT'S RIGHT!!
JUST WAIT HERE...!
HEY
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING ?
HM?
KIYOKA-CHAN, WHAT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DO YOU ATTEND?
KIYOKA-chan
SORRY FOR DROPPING BY WITHOUT NOTICE... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TRULY
IT'S FINE.
REALLY
MINAMI ELEMENTARY!
DO ALL THE KIDS AROUND HERE GO THERE?
YES. MOST OF THEM! SOMETIMES KIDS GO TO SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT THOUGH...
LIKE "KYOJO" AND "SAKAKI."
I'LL GO TO DAINI MIDDLE SCHOOL!
WHAT ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL?
I SEE.
thank you
MIZUHO-SAN
THIS IS IT!!
trot trot trot

I THINK THE PREVIOUS HOUSEHOLDER LEFT THIS HERE.
HERE!
THAT WAS IN THE STUDIO CEILING WHEN YOU REMODELED IN HERE!
YES
IT'S LIKE IT WAS HIDDEN
KLUNK
I CONTACTED THE REAL ESTATE BROKER FOR THE PREVIOUS OWNER...
THEY SAID, "I DON'T NEED IT SO PLEASE THROW IT AWAY"...
BUT I CAN'T THROW AWAY A PERSON'S PHOTOS...
FLIP
LOOK.
THESE BOYS ARE SO CUTE...!

SURELY ONE OF THEM IS THE SON WHO LIVED HERE
I WONDER WHO THE OTHER BOY IS
THEY LOOK A LOT ALIKE
LITTLE BROTHER? COUSIN?
MIZUHO-SAN, COULD YOU TAKE IT IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE?
"Narumi."
SURE..!
gloom
ERMM...
WELL
IT IS night
GO WITHOUT ME
SHALL WE HEAD BACK TO TOKYO?
WOW
bye bye
WHAT DO WE DO NOW? I COULDN'T FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION
SURE. WELL
you know
Explain it to me.

THERE MUST BE CLUES.
MAYBE HE ATTENDED THE ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL HERE.
MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME CLASSMATES OR FRIENDS
BUT IT'S ALREADY LATE.
CLENCH
I'M GOING TO STAY AND LOOK FOR NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER.
I'LL ASK PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
I DON'T THINK NARUMI WILL TELL US.
I DON'T KNOW HIM WELL... BUT THEY'RE BROTHERS, RIGHT?
IT WOULD BE FASTER TO JUST ASK NARUMI.
WE'LL COME AGAIN
AND... IF ORIGUCHI'S EX REALLY IS NARUMI'S BROTHER
HE NEVER TELLS ME ANYTHING CRUCIAL.
I've never been able to reach his heart.
BUT
"BUY ME A PORNO MAGAZINE"
"TASTES AWFUL."
"I'M BORED"
"NOT FEELING IT."
HE ALWAYS HAS STUPID RETORTS.
HE'S ONLY HONEST WITH USELESS STUFF.
HE'S NOT AS HONEST AS HE APPEARS.
HE DOESN'T TRUST ME.

Even if we're near each other
When he's relaxed
or sleeping together
he always feels far away.
I get scared
thinking that he might not be around.
HE DOESN'T TELL ME HIS TROUBLES OR FEELINGS!
LISTEN...! CALM DOWN!
GO BACK WITHOUT ME
I'M OKAY ON MY OWN
I'M CALM.
I'm trying to keep my composure!
Please
I'VE TOLD YOU A DOZEN TIMES
leave me alone.
DON'T PUSH PEOPLE AWAY!!

TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.
I'LL UNDERSTAND.
I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU CALM DOWN
CLEAR YOUR HEAD.
YOU CAN TALK TO ME IF YOU NEED ME
OKAY?
pat
LET'S GO HOME.
IN OTHER WORDS
KACHUNG
KACHUNG
KACHUNG

Nod
..YEAH
HER "BOYFRIEND" WHOSE INITIALS WERE H N AND HE LIVED ON THIS TRAIN LINE...
ORIGUCHI CAME TO SEE
HE FITS THE DESCRIPTION OF ORIGUCHI'S EX-BOYFRIEND
NARUMI AND HIS "OLDER BROTHER" LIVED APART?
THAT "BROTHER" IS THE ONE WHO PAINTS?
HMM. IT DOES SEEM THAT THE OLDER BROTHER IS ORIGUCHI'S EX-BOYFRIEND, BUT I THINK IT'S A LITTLE FARFETCHED...
kachang
IF YOU FEEL HE IS THOUGH, SHALL WE CHECK IT OUT?
YES!
thank you
kachang
Yep, that's him
Was this Narumi a huge ladies man?
LISTEN...
HM?
I'M... REALLY BAD AT CONVEYING MY FEELINGS TO OTHER PEOPLE
ABOUT EARLIER...
I'M SORRY.
REALLY

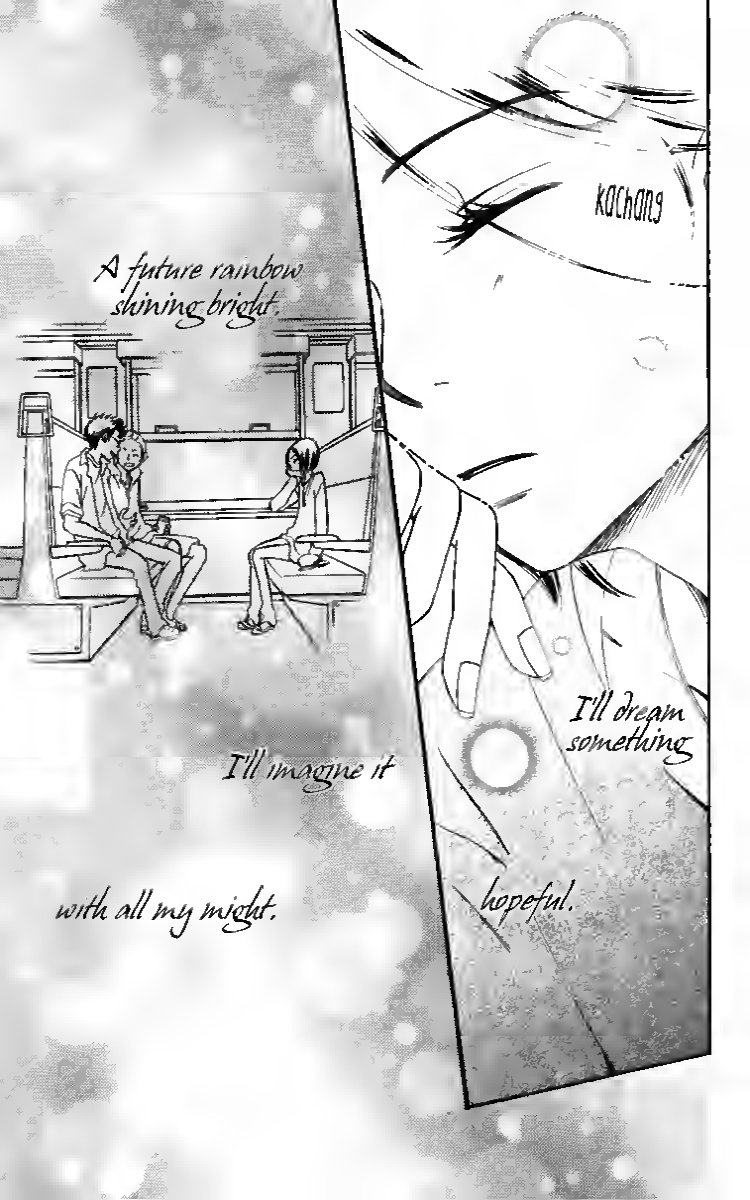
I'm different from other people.
It's a little bit of an art for me to convey my feelings.
uwaaaah!
I imagine the world is watching me.
I don't throw my feelings around like a child.
I don't want to!
uwaaaah!
uwaaaah!
I won't force anyone to be patiently polite.
flap
flap
I
Share them.
haven't exactly mastered that skill.
Lately I think about it as I get older.
I'm not trying to be cool.
THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE BAD AT THAT.
KOCHONS

THEY CAN'T GET THE WORDS OUT.
THEY TRY TO BLUFF THEIR WAY THROUGH.
THEY LOOK AT OTHERS CYNICALLY OR INTROVERT THEMSELVES.
IT'S THEIR WAY OF SAYING, "I'M HERE."
"I CAN'T SAY IT, SO PLEASE NOTICE ME" ♡
THEY PAINT AND SING.
INDIRECTLY
IT'S APPEALING.
IT'S A WAY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.
THEY UNKNOWINGLY
CT LIKE CHILDREN.

I DON'T SING.
I DON'T REQUEST ANYTHING.
I DEFINITELY CAN'T PAINT.
IF
NO ONE ELSE
EXISTED IN THE WORLD BUT ME

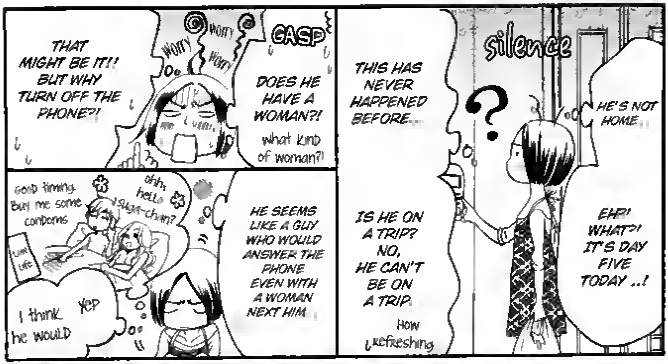
I'D ABANDON THINKING AND FEELING TOO.
kochan9
kochan9
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE TERRIBLY HARD TO UNDERSTAND.
SOMETIMES
I THINK
SOMETHING
TRANSMITS THE NEED
ALL PEOPLE
WANT TO BE AROUND OTHERS.

I'm interested
SO WHAT DO YOU PAINT, MATSUDA-KUN?
DONG
IT'S "MATSUURA".
KACHING
KACHING
I'M GOING TO SEE NARUMI TOMORROW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY
BUT I'LL GO SEE HIM.
I feel it.
I'll try hard
To "convey" my feelings.
I SEE.
AHAHA
YOU LIAR! YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED!
I was with you for half the day today!
Meanie!


kachang
A future rainbow shining bright.
I'll imagine it
with all my might.
I'll dream something
hopeful.

or so childish
I'm laughed at
Even if it's cheap
and flimsy
I won't care.
A dream
like reality
is strong.
This is my
reality and
I won't
shut myself
away.

NARUMI
I picture it.
YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE VOICE MAIL
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP..
DING DONG
DING DONG
NARUMI
Two days later
THE VOICE MAIL...
HUUUH...?
He's not picking up
Is his phone off?
HUH?!
YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE VOICE MAIL.
HUH?!
Next day


THAT MIGHT BE IT!! BUT WHY TURN OFF THE PHONE?!
Hurry
Hurry
GASP
DOES HE HAVE A WOMAN?!
what kind of woman?!
Good timing. Buy me some condoms
Ohh, hello Sugar-chan?
I'm like
I think he would
Yep
HE SEEMS LIKE A GUY WHO WOULD ANSWER THE PHONE EVEN WITH A WOMAN NEXT HIM
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
IS HE ON A TRIP? NO, HE CAN'T BE ON A TRIP.
How refreshing
silence
HE'S NOT HOME
EH?! WHAT?! IT'S DAY FIVE TODAY ..!

Ahh!
Ehhh?!
Why?!
Am I annoying?!!
GASP
Eh?! Then what could it be?!
Is he avoiding me?!!

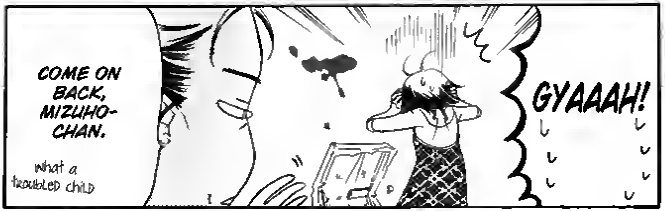
No way.
No.
future number
Ehehe
What?
Puff
Shit
I'm really thinking negative now...
wave
wave
Hmhh

I'd hate a guy who makes curry everyday tooll!!
That curry isn't tasty
Ehh?! what an annoying woman
He finds a woman who makes curry everyday annoying!!!
Get Lost !!
Shiver
bubble
bubble
bubble
I added Love to the curry for you
Please except my Love

Piece④
AHAH
LIKE I SAID, I'M NOT WORRIED...
NO, I'M REALLY NOT WORRIED
AHAHAHA
I'M NOT ANXIOUS AT ALL
CALM DOWN MIZUHO-CHAN
I'll be there soon
THERE'S NO REASON TO BE. THIS IS NOTHING.
No
NO, I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF NARUMI.
IT'S MIZUHO
Good Afternoon
NO
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT HIM!
YOU DON'T KNOW?
OH, IS THAT SO?
NANAO-SAN
090XXXXXXXX
DIALING
HELLO?
AH
HELLO, NANAO-SAN?
Creak
TO LEAVE THE HOUSE UNLOCKED
UNLIKE HIM
He hates leaving the house
IT'S CERTAINLY
CLACK
.....
HE'S NOT HOME
I wonder where he went

THE CURRY SPOILED!!
dooom
OH NO!!
It stinks!!
THIS IS A POOR EXCUSE FOR FOOD
I'm clubbing him when he gets back
H.N
EH?!
ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND'S PAINTING...!
Why?!
It's destroyed ...!!
WHAT DO I DO ...?!
IT'S AN IMPORTANT PAINTING ...!
WHO COULD ...!!
Warumi?
Why?!

"THAT NOSY WOMAN IS SNOOPING AROUND ABOUT ME"
HYAH!
Hmph!
She stunk of curry all the time
mehe...
You bad boy
I'll destroy it all!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK


COME ON BACK, MIZUHO-CHAN.
What a troubled child
GYAAAH!

CLATTER
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
sigh
...I'M...
I BOUGHT SOME DELICIOUS BLACK TEA
LET'S HAVE SOME TEA
I UNDERSTAND TAKE A SEAT.
Sit Down!!
I'M MORE... OF AN IDIOT... THAN PEOPLE THINK...
I've only recently
realized this

MY EMOTIONS ARE ALL MIXED UP
I LOSE IT AND WORRY ABOUT HIM
IT SCARES ME
NO GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO NARUMI
This situation
I'M TIRED AND EXHAUSTED.
is quickly getting serious.
YOU CAN'T HELP BUT SWALLOW THEM.
MAKE THEM YOUR ALLY
OUR EMOTIONS ARE LIKE NAVIGATORS
PICK THEM OUT ONE BY ONE.
CAREFULLY SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THEM.
WHEN YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH
ONLY THEN

IF YOU DO THAT
YOU'LL FIND WHAT TO DO NEXT.
BUT...!
CALMLY SEARCH FOR THE SOURCE OF THAT EMOTION
YOU SHOULD
BECAUSE... NARUMI ISN'T HOME...!!
WHY DO YOU GET FLUSTERED AND NERVOUS?
IT'S ONLY BEEN FIVE DAYS
HEY
ONE THING AT A TIME
Don't get flustered
All I do is scream
MY HEAD IS ALL MIXED UP...!
Unaaaaaah
"HE LEFT THE HOUSE FOR SEVERAL DAYS" AND "HE DESTROYED THE PAINTING"
THE ONLY DEFINITE "FACTS" ARE
SO WHAT?
HE DESTROYED THE PAINTING!!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SOMEDAY HE WOULDN'T BE AROUND...!
BUT...!
ONLY THOSE TWO, RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T "I THINK".
Dismiss!
I THINK SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HURT HIS FEELINGS!!
DISMISS "I THOUGHT"
IT LACKS OBJECTIVITY!

BUT EVEN SO
WHY ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS?
MIZUHO-CHAN
COMES FROM THINKING
OF HOW VERY IMPORTANT HIS IS TO YOU, ISN'T IT?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR ANXIETY
IT HURTS
I THOUGHT
I WOULDN'T GET TO SEE NARUMI ANYMORE
IT FEELS LIKE MY STOMACH IS BEING HOLLOWED OUT

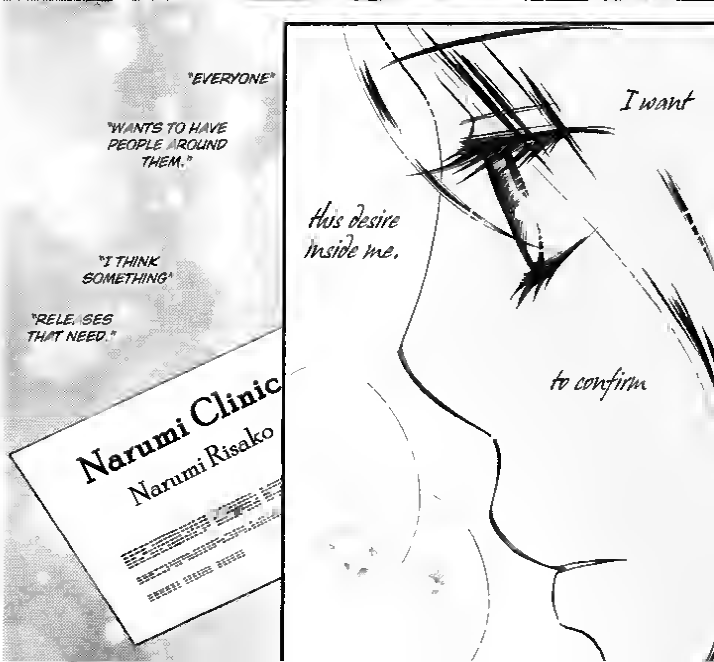
IT'S NOT A TRUTH FOR YOU TO FEAR.
RATHER IT'S A MAGNIFICENT TRUTH.
FIRST, DRAW THAT EMOTION CLOSE
DETERMINE THAT SOURCE
CALMLY
ASSESS EVERY EMOTION PRECISELY
"CALMLY"
HELP PEOPLE WITH EVERY OCCASION

SLOWLY
WHEN YOU DRINK THE TEA DO IT
AND CALMLY.
CLACK
IT'S A SPECIAL BLEND, OKAY?
HERE YOU GO

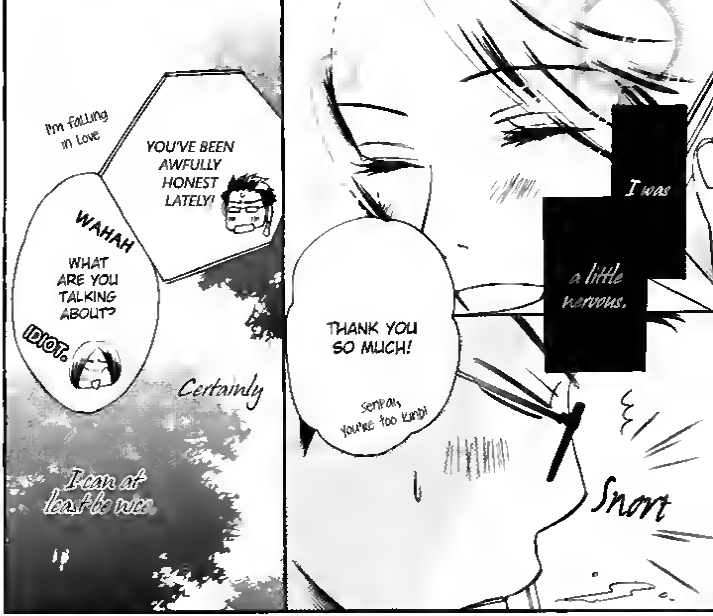
"CALMLY."
.....
Uwah.. what a nice aroma
blow
It costs 3000 yen for 50 grams
Huge splurge!
Ehh?! Expensive!
Uwah! It's delicious..!!
"NARUMI HASN'T BEEN HOME FOR SEVERAL DAYS."
"I"
"HE DESTROYED THE PAINTING."
"THINK OF NARUMI AS IMPORTANT TO ME."
Now
what should I do?

I WANT TO GO SEE
NARUMI'S MOTHER.
And then
Air out the room.
Take out the trash.
dooom
First, take care of the rotten curry
IT STINKS...
COULD YOU CONTACT HER IN ADVANCE FOR ME?
IT'S RUDE TO DROP BY HER WORKPLACE UNANNOUNCED
I TRIED TO PAY A VISIT TO NARUMI'S "OLDER BROTHER" BUT HE'D ALREADY MOVED OUT...
SURE..
BUT...
SHE IS
I SEE IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN HIS OLDER BROTHER "HIRO-KUN" AS WELL
BEING THEIR MOTHER SHE MIGHT KNOW WHERE THE "OLDER BROTHER" IS, RIGHT?

"HE'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, ISN'T HE?"
IF THERE IS A SOURCE TO SUCH A BEAUTIFUL EMOTION...
BUT
I don't want to trample over others to get it.
I'VE ALWAYS FELT GUILTY FOR IT.
I...
WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT "NARUMI".
this interests
and the reason for his selfish ego.

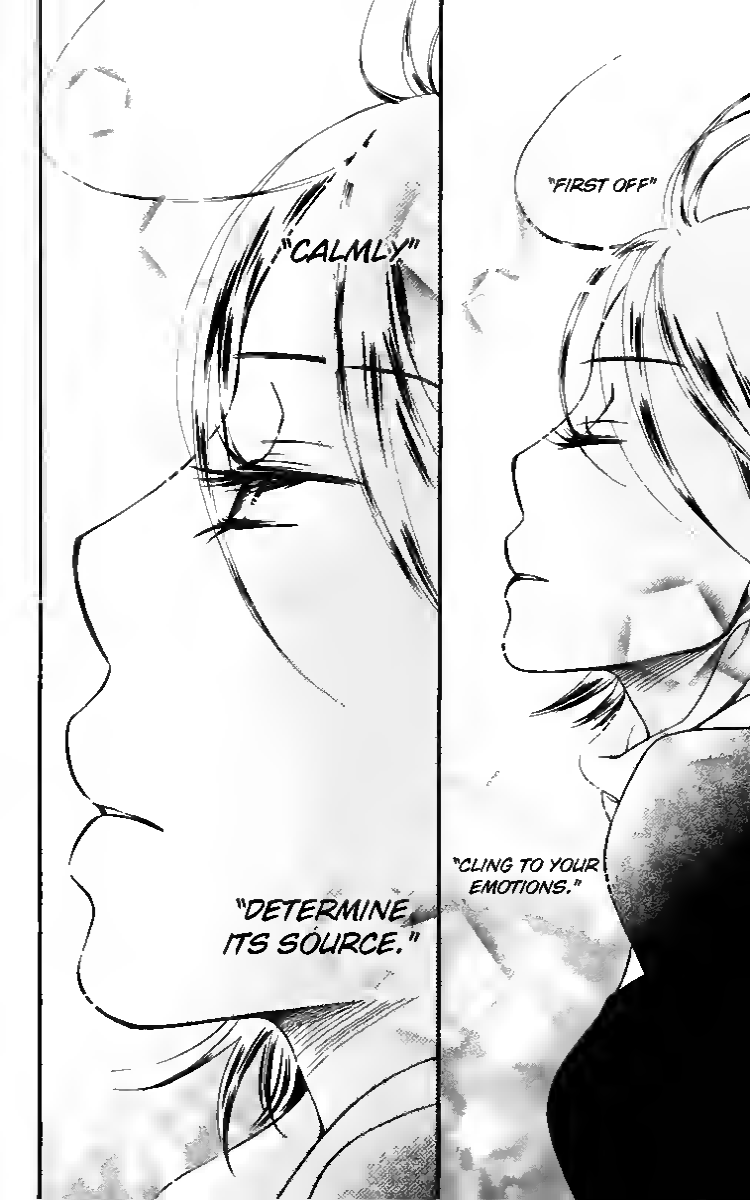

"EVERYONE"
"WANTS TO HAVE PEOPLE AROUND THEM."
"I THINK SOMETHING"
"RELEASES THAT NEED."
Narumi Clinic
Narumi Risako
I want
this desire inside me,
to confirm

I AM GOING TO VISIT NARUMI'S MOM.
EH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?
ARE YOU NERVOUS TO DO IT ALONE?
SHOULD I GO WITH YOU?
I have time the following day
I chose this path.
HELLO, YANAI-SENPAI?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T FIND NARUMI AT ALL.
"WHAT'S WRONG WITH CONTROLLING YOUR CHILD'S PERSONALITY?"
YES.
"TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE."
"THE MORE SAMPLES THE BETTER, RIGHT?"

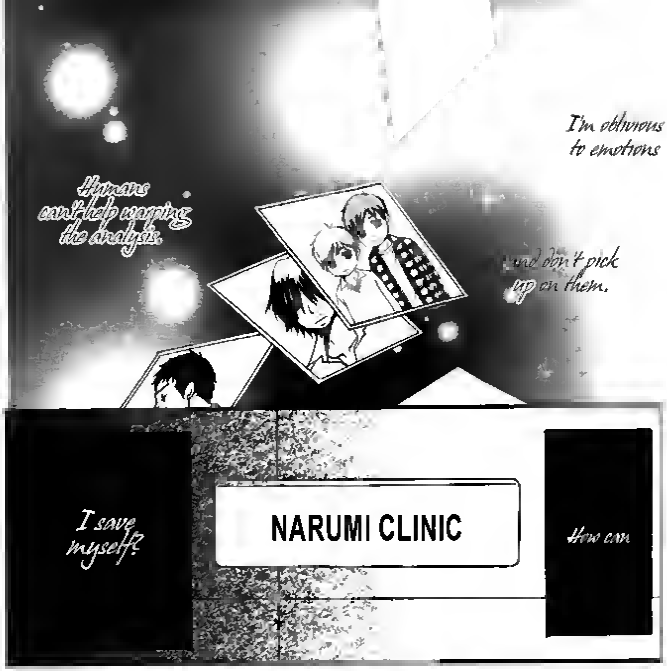

I'm falling in Love
YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY HONEST LATELY!
WAHAH
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IDIOT.
Certainly
I can at least be nice.
I was a little nervous.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
Senpai, you're too kind!
Snort

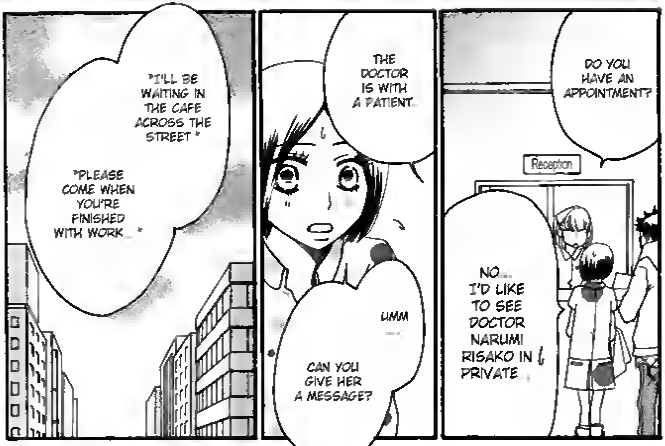
Chit-chatting with friends
showing empathy
and underestimating others a little.
I hate it
when moisture messes up my hair.
stupid hair
It feels good
to take neat notes.
Mizuho is in ECONOMICS
My feelings
will gradually grow.
Kyaaah!
IT'S RAINING!

All day long
my emotions
slowly
rush back and forth
throughout
my body.


"FIRST OFF"
"CALMLY."
"CLING TO YOUR EMOTIONS."
"DETERMINE ITS SOURCE."

"A CALM HEAD"
"DON'T WARP"
"SAVES PEOPLE IN ALL SITUATIONS."
"THE ANALYSIS OF YOUR EMOTIONS WHEN YOU OBSERVE THEM."
If that's really true




"I'LL BE WAITING IN THE CAFE ACROSS THE STREET."
"PLEASE COME WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED WITH WORK."
THE DOCTOR IS WITH A PATIENT.
UMM...
CAN YOU GIVE HER A MESSAGE?
DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?
Reception
NO... I'D LIKE TO SEE DOCTOR NARUMI RISAKO IN PRIVATE.

FEGSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM

...WHAT'S NARUMI'S MOTHER LIKE?
IS SHE NORMAL?
EH?
SLURP
I ASKED... THE HOUSEMAID NANAO-SAN TO GIVE HER A MESSAGE...
I WONDER IF SHE DID...
I WONDER IF SHE'LL COME
I WONDER IF SHE'LL COME...
WHO KNOWS
SLURP
"INHUMAN"
"HE DOESN'T HAVE FEELINGS LIKE A HUMAN"
IN HIGH SCHOOL I SAW HIM
BE DOWNRIGHT NASTY TO A GIRL.
"HE'S SCARY."
I TOLD YOU FROM THE START
"NARUMI IS UNPLEASANT."

"I TOLD YOU I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE!"
"WHAT'S THAT?! YOU'RE MEAN!!"
"YOU'RE ANNOYING!"
EVEN IF HE DIDN'T LIKE HER
I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT TO OTHERS THAT THEY'VE DATED.
IF A GUY LIKE HIM IS POPULAR
I FIGURE I'M BETTER OFF BEING A LOSER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT
OR WANT TO FIGURE OUT A PERSON LIKE THAT.
I

IF I GREW UP IN THIS FAMILY
WHAT KIND OF GIRL WOULD I BECOME?
ALWAYS THOUGHT WHEN I WENT
TO ANOTHER KID'S HOUSE TO PLAY
MY FAMILY HAS THEIR UPS AND DOWNS WE'RE A NORMAL FAMILY.
I FELT STIFLED AND THEY SAW ME AS A CHILD.
MY PARENTS WERE A LITTLE HIGH STRUNG
IF I WAS BORN TO MARIKA-CHAN'S HOUSE
MAYBE I WOULD HAVE LAUGHED MORE.
IF I WAS BORN TO NANA-CHAN'S HOUSE
MAYBE I WOULD HAVE BEEN A MUCH KINDER GIRL.
"SERIOUSLY, DAD! DON'T GO OUTSIDE IN YOUR UNDERWEAR!"
"OHH! MIZUHO-CHAN!! YOU CAME!!"
TAKE IT SLOW

"I WANT TO KILL HIM."
"SOMETIMES HONESTLY"
"HE GETS VIOLENT AND SUPER GROSS WHEN HE DRINKS ALCOHOL."
"ARGH MY PARENTS ARE SERIOUSLY THE WORST."
I TOO MIGHT WANT TO KILL MY PARENTS.
IF I WAS BORN TO MIKA-CHAN'S HOUSE
THEY WON'T BECOME SOMEONE WHO COULD UNABASHEDLY HURT OR KILL SOMEONE.
ANYONE GROWING UP IN THAT ENVIRONMENT CAN'T BE TOTALLY SURE THAT

"I WAS CURIOUS"
"TO SEE THE EFFECTS"
"OF ENVIRONMENT ON PEOPLE"
...SUGA
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND NARUMI?

I DON'T KNOW.
BUT
IF ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND WAS NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER, HIRO-SAN
I WONDER IF ORIGUCHI-SAN TRIED TO FIGURE "HIM" OUT.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME"
"I FELT LIKE I COULD FEEL HIS TRUE FEELINGS."
"I NEVER KNEW THERE WERE THIS MANY EMOTIONS"
"INSIDE HIM."
"IT MADE ME HAPPY."
NARUMI... AND HIS BROTHER "HIRO-SAN"
WERE COMPLETE OPPOSITES
BUT SOMETIMES THEY WERE FRIGHTENINGLY SIMILAR
"...IT HURTS"
"A LITTLE"
"TO LIKE"
"SOMEONE."

THE EXACT SAME ENVIRONMENTS DOWN TO THE HOUSE AND HOUSEMAID
My "want to know" desire
WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT—?
HUH?
BUT SHE PROVIDED
THEY COULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER
TOKYO AND IBARAKI
RAISED FAR APART FROM EACH OTHER
SHE HAD THEM
AFTER THE DIVORCE THEIR MOTHER
RISAKO-SAN

A Young Hiro

Narumi's older brother. He's more mature and timid than Narumi. He changed that part of him as he grew up.

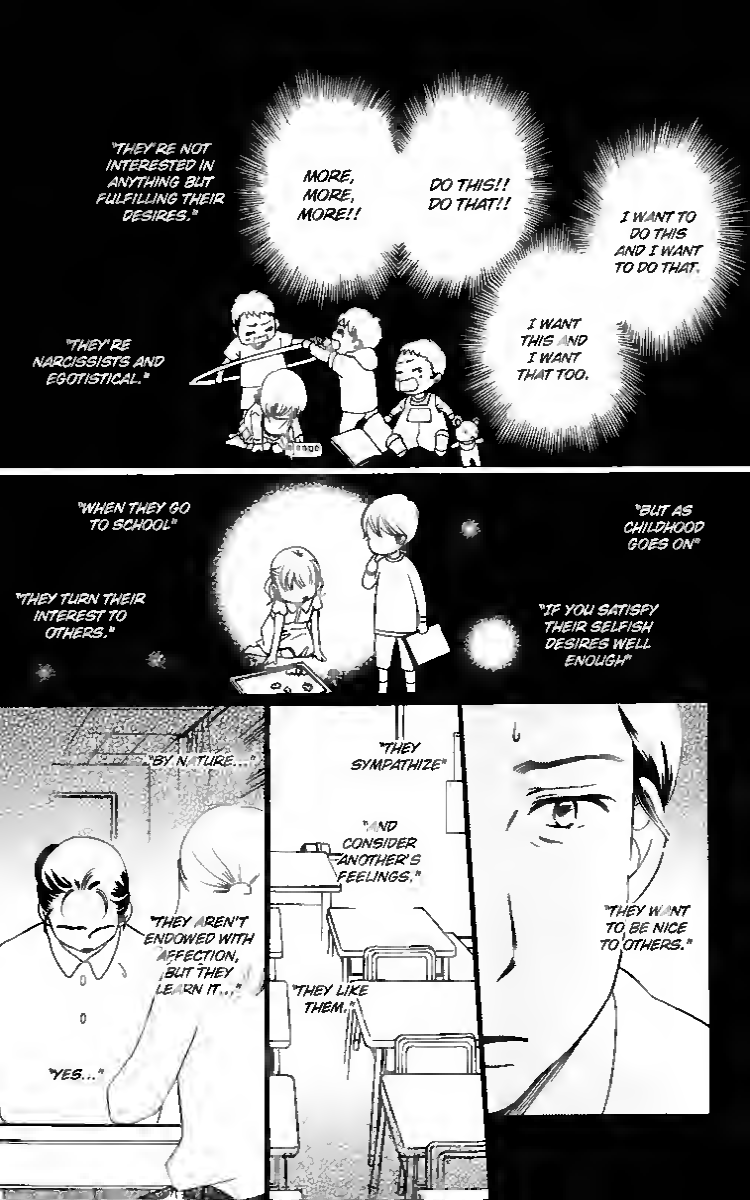
I think the environment you're raised in plays a huge role, but I feel "nurture" plays a huge role when you're born as well.

"TWO SAMPLES"
"ARE BETTER THAN ONE."
"THE MORE THE BETTER, RIGHT?"
THOSE TWO BOYS WERE MERELY TEST SUBJECTS TO HER
SHE CONTINUOUSLY PUT SMALL AMOUNTS OF STRESS ON THEM.
AND YET, WHEN I MET HIKARU
PSYCHOLOGY OF WORKING
NARCISSISTIC ADULTS - NARUMI KISHIO
PSYCHOLOGY COUNSELOR'S ADVICE - NARUMI KISHIO
made me reckless.
I was too selfish and curious.
"I WAS CURIOUS."
"WHAT EFFECT DOES ENVIRONMENT HAVE ON PEOPLE?"

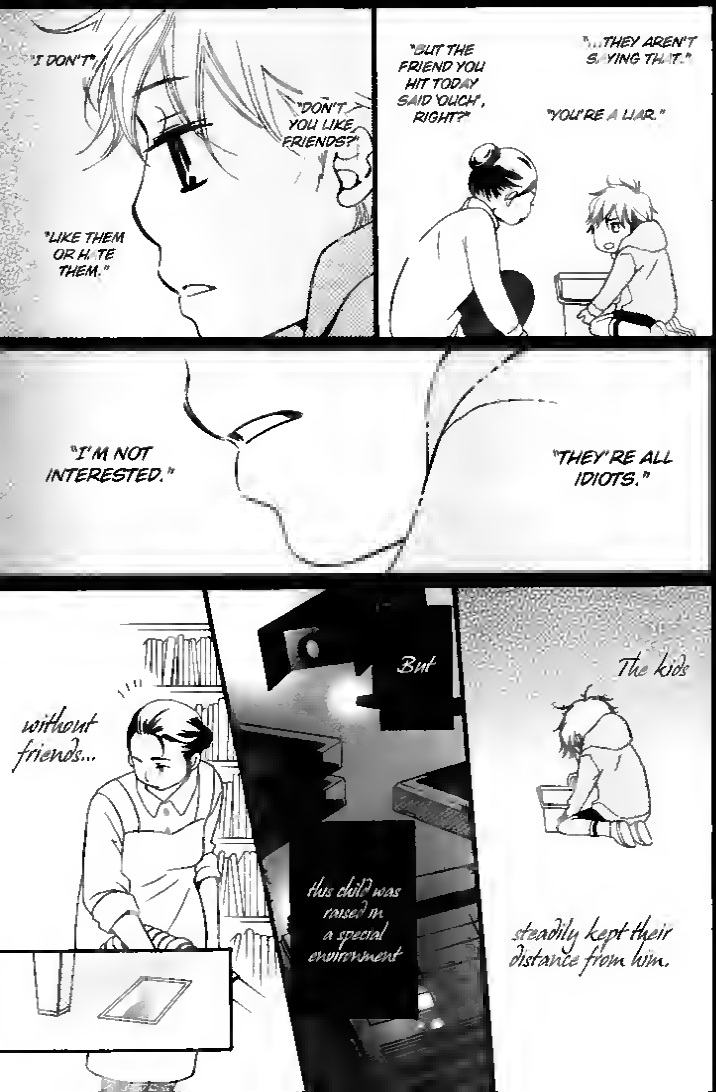
"NANAO-SHAN!!"
"I GIVE THIS TO YOU!!"
HE WAS SWEET
SOMETIMES HE SMILED LIKE THE CHILD HE WAS
HE WAS SUCH A CUTE KID.
HOWEVER
WHEN HE STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SOMETHING SNAPPED.
"WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, HIKARU-KUN?!"
CRASH
"NO!!!"
"HIKARU-KUN!!"
HE HAD VIOLENT OUT BURSTS
AND WAS SELFISH

"IT'S NOT"
"ALWAYS HIKARU-KUN'S FAULT."
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
"EH..?! AGAIN?!"
I RECEIVED CALLS FROM THE SCHOOL COUNTLESS TIMES
"HE WAS NEVER LIKE THIS BEFORE."
"IT WAS ALMOST SPOOKY HOW WELL-BEHAVED HE WAS, BUT NOW..."
"HE CAN'T SEEM TO PICK UP ON THE CHILDREN'S FEELINGS."
"HE'S A LITTLE.. INTOLERABLE."
"HOWEVER, HIKARU-KUN..."
"FIGHTS WITH HIS FRIENDS"
"CHILDREN ARE VERY SELFISH BY NATURE."
"I'M SO..."
"TERRIBLY SORRY!!"
"AND HE'S UNABLE TO MAKE LASTING FRIENDS."
"THAT'S NATURAL."

Forbid Gar DEN
FGSDADS.BLOGSPOT.COM


"THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING BUT FULFILLING THEIR DESIRES."
MORE, MORE, MORE!!
DO THIS!! DO THAT!!
I WANT TO DO THIS AND I WANT TO DO THAT.
I WANT THIS AND I WANT THAT TOO.
"THEY'RE NARCISSISTS AND EGOTISTICAL."
"WHEN THEY GO TO SCHOOL"
"BUT AS CHILDHOOD GOES ON"
"THEY TURN THEIR INTEREST TO OTHERS."
"IF YOU SATISFY THEIR SELFISH DESIRES WELL ENOUGH"
"BY NATURE..."
"THEY AREN'T ENDOWED WITH AFFECTION, BUT THEY LEARN IT..."
"YES..."
"THEY SYMPATHIZE"
"AND CONSIDER ANOTHER'S FEELINGS."
"THEY LIKE THEM."
"THEY WANT TO BE NICE TO OTHERS."

"PARDON MY ASKING... IS THERE A PROBLEM AT HOME?"
"WHERE IS HIS MOTHER? IS SHE WORKING TODAY TOO?"
"...HIKARU-KUN"
"THE ANTS ARE SAYING, 'YOU'RE HURTING ME.'"


"I DON'T."
"DON'T YOU LIKE FRIENDS?"
"LIKE THEM OR HATE THEM."
"BUT THE FRIEND YOU HIT TODAY SAID 'OUCH', RIGHT?"
"...THEY AREN'T SAYING THAT."
"YOU'RE A LIAR."
"I'M NOT INTERESTED."
"THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS."
without friends...
But
this child was raised in a special environment
The kids
steadily kept their distance from him.

"HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE HIKARU..."
"WHO IS THIS?"
"IT'S MY SON."
If I can
"HE A YEAR"
"OLDER THAN HIKARU."
get these two children
to meet
they might sympathize with each other

They could give each other
Unique support.
as playmates and friends.
Surely
CLACK
HIRO-KUN ?
DO YOU REMEMBER HIKARU-KUN?
HE IS YOUR LITTLE BROTHER
HIKARU ?
YOUNG MASTER ?
WHAT WRONG?
GASP

NOTHING!
GO TO THE TOWN LIBRARY IN FRONT OF STATION...!
I'LL BE THERE SOON...!
PANT
PANT
PANT
□□ TOWN LIBRARY

HIKARU...!!

...Uh...
Uwaaaah!

THAT'S RIGHT
YOU REMEMBER HIKARU-KUN...
YES...!!
ouch.
"MOM!" WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIKARU!?"
ONE DAY
MOM TOOK HIKARU AWAY.
I'm sorry!
ouch
"HIKARU ISN'T HERE ANYMORE."
AFTER COMING TO IBARAKI I BEGGED MOM MANY TIMES TO LET ME SEE HIKARU.
"HIKARU!!"
SHE GOT MAD EVERY TIME.

"GIVE ME BACK HIKARU."
"GIVE ME BACK HIKARU."
"GIVE ME BACK HIKARU."
SO MANY, MANY TIMES.
I PRAYED TO GOD
GOD
BROUGHT YOU BACK TO ME...!
Halo
Eh...?
NO...
Thank you GOD...!!
LISTEN!
THE HOUSEKEEPER WILL TATTLE TO MY MOM SOON...
BUT SHE CAN'T STOP PLAYING PACHINKO!!
SO EVERY MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL
PACHINKO ?!
SHE DROPS ME OFF HERE AND GOES TO PLAY PACHINKO.

SO!
I'M AT THIS LIBRARY ON MONDAYS...!
SHE SAID TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM MOM.
SHE GIVES ME CANDY AFTER
COME AGAIN, HIKARU!
HUG
DEFINITELY!!
AFTER THAT
I KEPT IT FROM THEIR MOTHER
AND WE WENT AGAIN AND AGAIN TO SEE HIRO-KUN IN IBARAK!

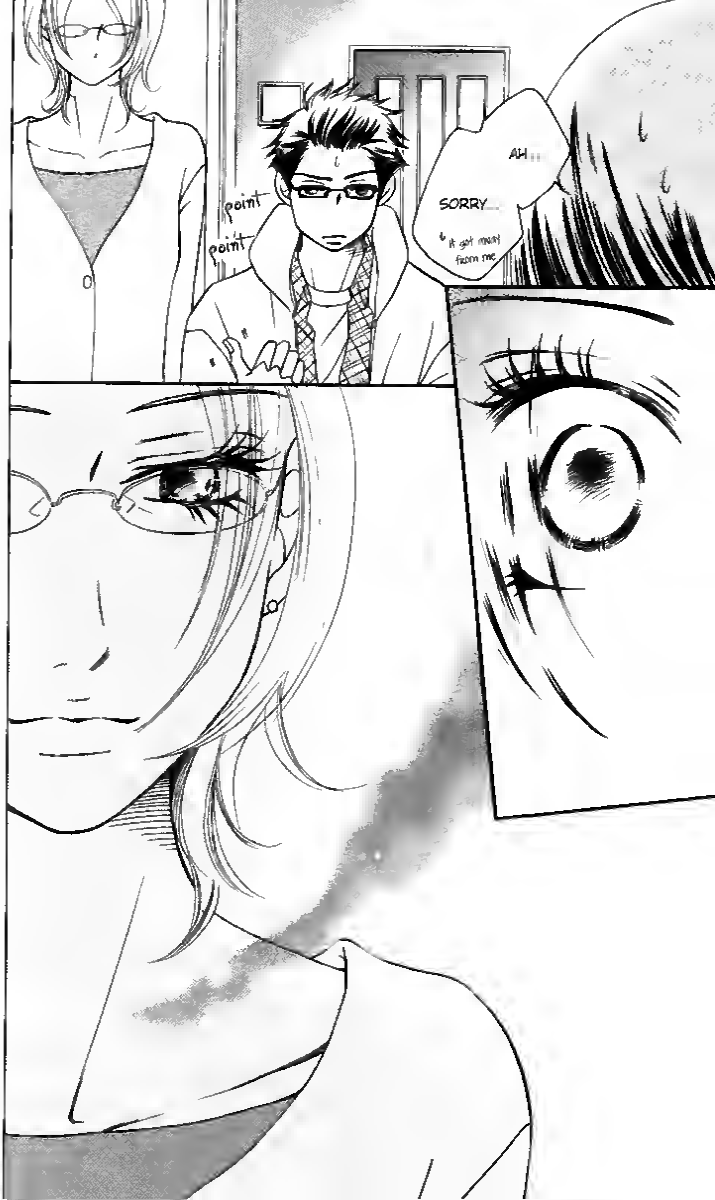
HIRO-KUN WAS GENTLE
ATTENTIVE TO OTHERS, SENSITIVE AND TIMID...
THEY WERE COMPLETE OPPOSITES.
wiggle
wiggle
"HIKARU."
IT'S LIKE THEY WERE ABSORBING
OR RESONATING EACH OTHER
"HIKARU."
THEY QUICKLY BECAME CLOSE.

"HIKARU"
"YOU'RE MY TREASURE."
"LET'S NOT PART AGAIN."
HUG
AT FIRST ...
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING.

BUT...
AND HE SMILED A LOT MORE LIKE AN INNOCENT CHILD
HIKARU'S EMOTIONS EVENED OUT...
THEY UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER TOO WELL.
THEY TOOK IN TOO MUCH
FOR BETTER OR WORSE
THEY SHARED TOO MUCH BETWEEN THEM
...IT WAS AT THAT TIME
THEY CROSSED IT.
ORIGINALLY THERE WAS A BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THEM
point

HIKARU
COULDN'T STAND EGGS, WHICH HE USED TO LOVE...

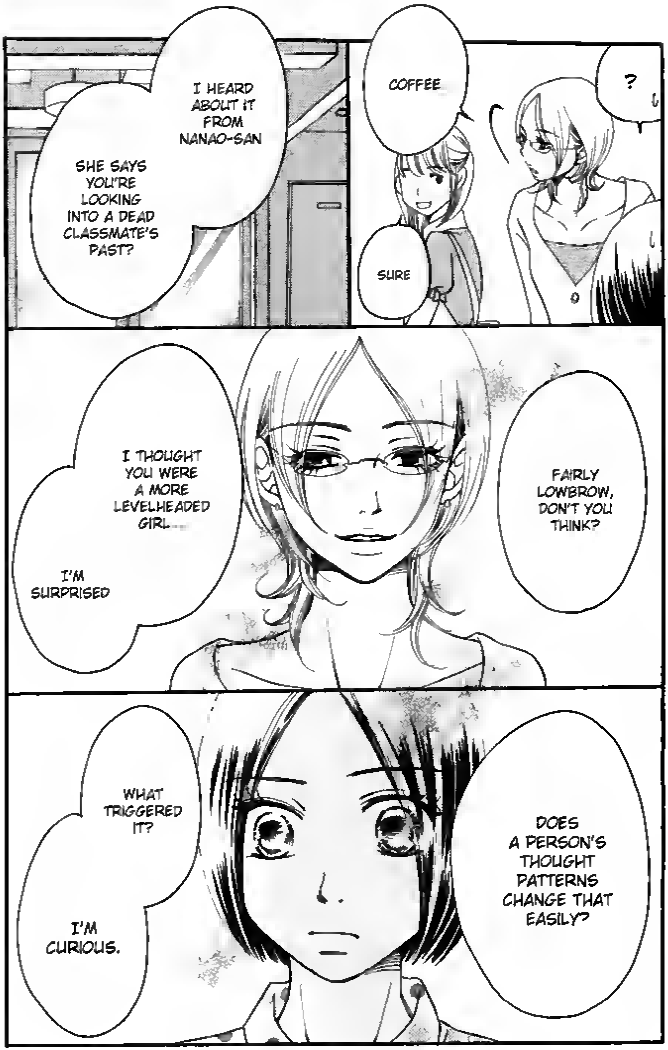
"EGGS"...?
SUGA!!
GASP


point
point
AH...
SORRY...
it got mixed from me

SUGA MIZUHO-SAN?
ARE YOU
NARUMI'S MOTHER ...!!
CLATTER
SMACK
AH...
EXCUSE...
KYAH!

"BE CALM."
Calm down.
I'M...
SORRY...!
Yes.
Of course.

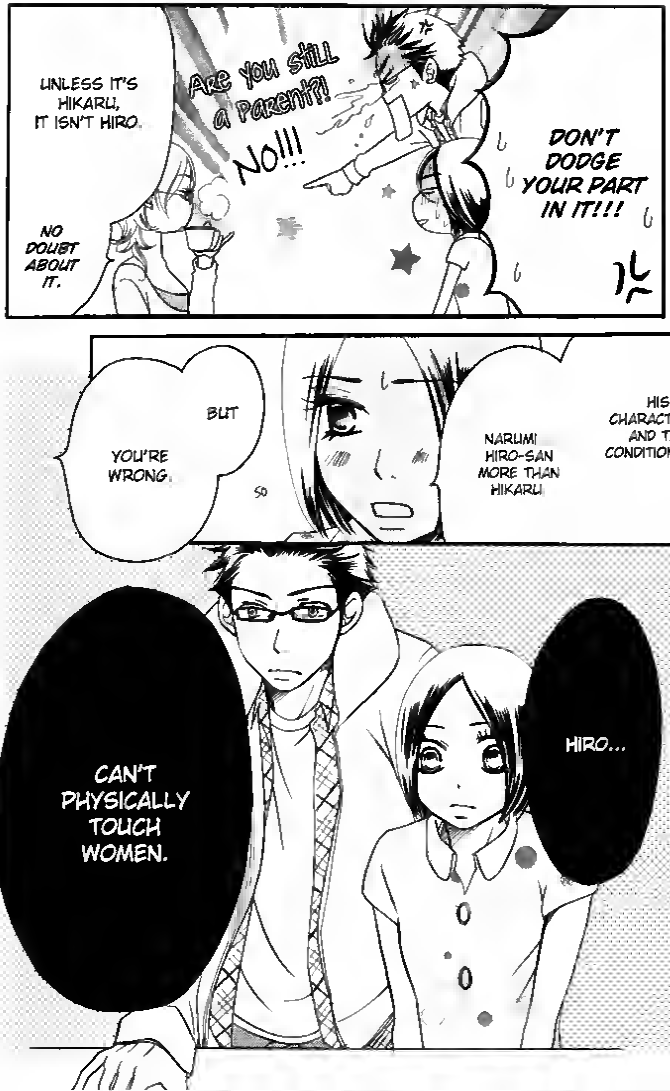
...IS THAT SO?
I CAME FOR YOU.
Her "attitude"
is similar to Narumi...
I DIDN'T...
THINK YOU WOULD COME.
EH?
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT YOU.


I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM NANAO-SAN
SHE SAYS YOU'RE LOOKING INTO A DEAD CLASSMATE'S PAST?
COFFEE
?
SURE
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MORE LEVELHEADED GIRL...
I'M SURPRISED
FAIRLY LOWBROW, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHAT TRIGGERED IT?
I'M CURIOUS.
DOES A PERSON'S THOUGHT PATTERNS CHANGE THAT EASILY?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET, RIGHT?
What?
I don't feel right.
Did Nanao-san say something about me?
Or did Narumi?
No way.
No.
It doesn't matter.
It's not about that right now.
"BE CALM."
I FIND
YOUR MOTIVE TOO WEAK.
I don't intend to get involved with her.
PLEASE... TELL ME WHERE "HIRO-SAN" IS.
HUH?
IS IT UNNATURAL?
WHY ARE THE PARENTS SO EAGER TO FIND THE BOY
THEIR DAUGHTER DATED FOR A TIME DURING HIGH SCHOOL?

"HARUKA BECAME PREGNANT FROM THAT BOY."
THAT'S...
HAVE YOU INVOLVED FORMER CLASSMATES?
WHAT DID THE FORMER BOYFRIEND DO?
THAT IS
?
glance
SHE
GOT PREGNANT AND ABORTED HIS BABY.

THEY REGRETTED NOT GETTING TOO INVOLVED WITH HER AT THAT TIME.
THEY WANT TO KNOW OF ANY PROBLEMS SHE MAY HAVE HAD THEN.
SO..
My
Pregnant
Abortion?!
THEN IT'S NOT MY SON.
Don't listen!!!
White Lily
HUUUU UUUUUU UUH?!
CLATTER
I'M SORRY, SENPAI!!
I COULDN'T TELL YOU!!
Senpai, you're crying?!


UNLESS IT'S HIKARU, IT ISN'T HIRO.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
Are you still a parent?!
No!!!
DON'T DODGE YOUR PART IN IT!!!
BUT
YOU'RE WRONG.
SO
NARUMI HIRO-SAN MORE THAN HIKARU
HIS CHARACTER... AND THE CONDITIONS FIT
CAN'T PHYSICALLY TOUCH WOMEN.
HIRO...

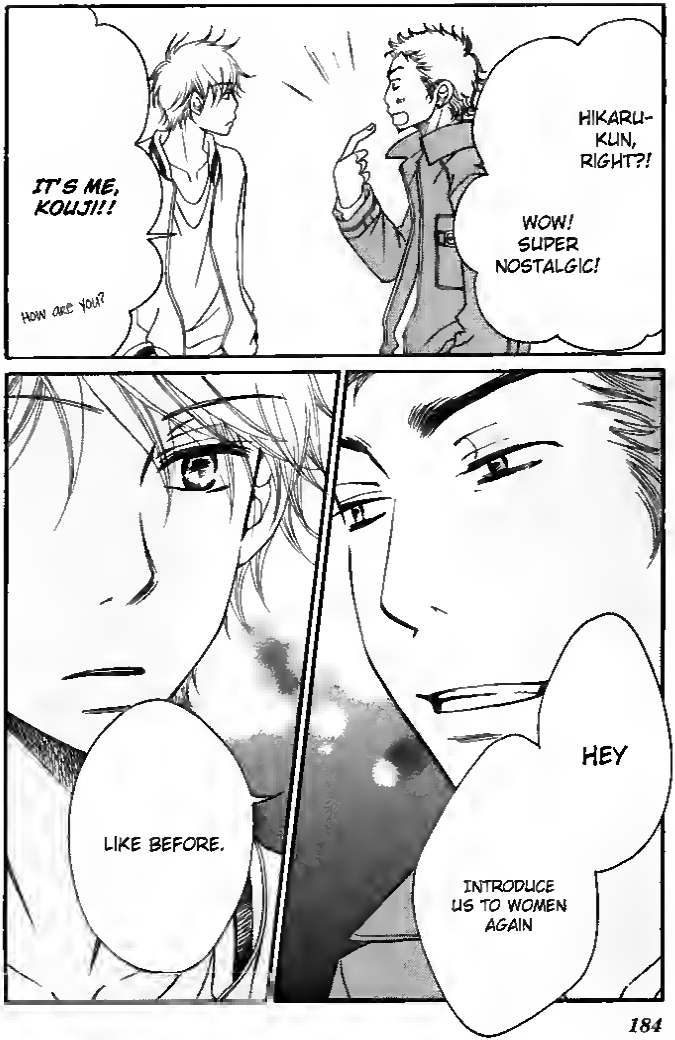
Pi
HUH...?
Pi Pi Pi Pi
NISHIDA REMI
Pi Pi Pi
Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi
YOU CAN ANSWER IT
OH! HELLO, MIZUHO?
CAN YOU GO OUT LATER TODAY? THE PEOPLE FROM THE GROUP DATE THE OTHER DAY..
...SORRY, REMI!! I CAN'T RIGHT NOW!
Later.
EH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
BUT LISTEN! THE OTHER DAY KYOU-CHAN SAID...
Mutter Mutter
SORRY!!
CLICK

silence
WHAT ?!
SILENCE
OH MY YOU'RE MEAN
YOU SHOULD CHERISH YOUR FRIENDS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE "CAN'T TOUCH"?!
EXACTLY THAT.
HIRO CAN'T TOUCH WOMEN.

HE
COULDN'T TALK, GET NEAR OR TOUCH A GIRL.
DURING PUBERTY...
GIRLS WERE MEAN TO HIM
WELL
IT'S A SOCIAL KIND OF PHOBIA
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ISOMERIZATION PHOBIA?
INTENSE
PHYSICAL AND UNPLEASANT FEELINGS.
SHAKING HEART PALPITATIONS, PERSPIRATION, AND NAUSEA
HIS BODY WILL RESPOND WITH
DO YOU REALLY
THINK A BOY LIKE THAT COULD COURT A GIRL?
BEGRUDGINGLY YES, BUT PREGNANCY DEFINITELY NOT.

EVEN IF YOU SAY IT'S HIM
IT ISN'T HIM.
YOU NEED PROOF.
Am I wrong?
But then
H.N
If so
Who?
KYAHAHA

OUCH!
BUMP
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
Apologize!
HUH?!
IT'S NARUMI-KUN!!


HIKARU-KUN, RIGHT?!
WOW! SUPER NOSTALGIC!
IT'S ME, KOUJI!!
HOW ARE YOU?
HEY
INTRODUCE US TO WOMEN AGAIN
LIKE BEFORE.

...I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, KOUJI-KUN.
All the parts, colors and stuff
that makes him.

<Piece>4 * End *

Kouji-kun

Marumi's childhood friend?
Continued in volume 5

See you!!

2010 5.1

Ashihara Hinako

Piece ④

ベツコミフラワーコミックス

2010年6月30日初版第1刷発行　（検印廃止）
2010年8月20日　第2刷発行

著者　芦原妃名子
発行者　都築伸一郎

「ベツコミ」'10年2月号、5月号掲載作品
連載担当者／須藤綾子
単行本編集責任者／鈴木望
単行本編集者／須藤綾子、久本康子(A-ark)

発行所　株式会社 小学館
〒101-8001　東京都千代田区一ツ橋2の3の1
TEL 販売03(5281)3556 編集03(3230)5489

印刷所　加藤製版印刷株式会社

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ISBN978-4-09-133266-0

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